Landbank tax scam balloons to ₱432 million

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

Erap wants 'Da King' for president

By Volt Contreras

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada yesterday threw a lunchtime birthday party inside his detention suite for his action star buddy

ERAP/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Wednesday, August 21, 2002 ★ 54 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 254 P15

ROGER MARGALLO

VINTAGE Kris: While the nation is agog about her romance with yet another married man, she's cool after chilling out for a week in LA.

No need for Joey at Ninoy rites–GMA

Aquinos: It will be rude for mayor to come

By Carlito Pablo, Norman Bordadora and Christian V. Esguerra

PROTOCOL be damned.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will not require Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez to welcome her when she attends the 19th death anniversary of Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., at the Manila Memorial Park, which happens to be in Parañaque.

The Palace said there was no need for Marquez, Kris Aquino's much married boyfriend, to be present to welcome Ms Macapagal.

If Marquez insists on joining Kris at her father's memorial rites, he may have to stay outside of the Manila Memorial Park. The Aquinos said it would be "rude" for the mayor to attend the private Mass.

"He has no place and role in such a private gathering," Deedee Siytangco, spokesperson of Mrs. Aquino, told the INQUIRER.

"Mrs. Aquino is a woman of extreme patience and grace so Joey should not attempt to join the private Mass," Siytangco said.

If indeed Marquez had been invited by Malacañang, he should just welcome Ms

NO NEED/ A20

LETTERS FROM Tunisia

'I am asking Marcos to exit with his loot'

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from a letter dated June 20, 1980 addressed to Enrique Zobel and hand-carried to the business tycoon in Manila while Aquino was in the States where he had undergone a triple heart bypass. Zobel is releasing it for the first time.

". . . Monday (June 23) I fly to Dallas for my final checkup and the start of my physical rehab therapy.

"I could not tell you on the phone: I'm leaving for the Middle East on July 3 to rendezvous with the leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front who are presently based in Tripoli Libya. I told them to pick a place other than Libya because I do not want to work under the shadow of Colonel Muamar Khadaffy. I expect to be away for five days and I should be back in Dallas July 8-9. As you know the MNLF has been tieing (sic) down government forces in Mindanao for the last eight years and have killed some 8,000 men (AFP) by Marcos's own reckoning. The two warring factions—the NUR MISUARI group (Tausug) and the Hashim Salamat (Maguindanaos) group have finally reconciled on the prodding of

I AM/ A19

'No chain can prevent the spirit to soar'

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Five letters from Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. to Jose Antonio Gonzalez are made public for the first time since they were written in the 1970s.

Tourism secretary during the administration of former President Corazon Aquino, Gonzales opened his vault, where the letters had been kept to reproduce them for the second time. Ms Aquino had the first set of the reproduction. A copy of a second set was made by Gonzalez for the INQUIRER readers.

"Five in all, which I treasured," he said of the letters either signed with the famous nickname "Ninoy" or with a simple "N."

The letters Gonzalez said are very important to the youth.

"A lot of our population are very young and may not know Ninoy. Through these letters, he is sharing a life principle: One should not accommodate," Gonzalez said.

"We should remember that he was a man who could have

NO/ A20

19 years after, Ninoy mystery refuses to die

By Juliet L. Javellana

NINETEEN years after the assassination of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., his family continues to be hounded by people who claim to know the answers to the mystery of his murder.

Only last week, former President Corazon Aquino received a "confidential" cryptic message written on California hotel stationery.

The mysterious sender claimed knowing "what really happened" on the tarmac of the then Manila International Airport on Aug. 21, 1983, according to the fallen leader's only son, Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

The congressman said he called up the letter-writer's mobile number but there was no answer.

"Around this time every year, we really get messages like this," Representative Aquino said.

Today marks the 19th death anniversary of his father, then the No. 1 political enemy of dictator Ferdinand Marcos. He was returning from a three-year exile in the United States and was felled by an assassin's bullet while being escorted out of the plane by soldiers.

Representative Aquino said the messages came from alleged informants or witnesses to the assassination. The killing sparked massive protests that culminated in the downfall of Marcos in the 1986 Edsa People

19 YEARS/ A20

Inq7 deluged with Kris hate e-mail

By Fe Zamora

"TAMA Na, Sobra Na, Gising Na Kris" (Enough is enough, wake up, Kris).

This is what concerned—and irked—Filipinos are telling Kris Aquino: to leave her married lover, comedian and Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez.

Reactions have swamped the INQ7.net discussion board since Aug. 12, when the youngest daughter of Ninoy Aquino tearfully admitted on TV her confrontation with actress Alma Moreno, estranged wife of Marquez, at a hospital room where Marquez was confined for a checkup.

Except for a handful who want to give Marquez and Kris a chance to prove their love, an overwhelming majority want Kris to "act her age" and junk the "old, bald and ugly Marquez." Majority also said Moreno acted as expected of a legal wife.

INQ7/ A20

Landbank tax scam balloons to ₱432 million

By Clarissa S. Batino and Philip C. Tubeza

THE LAND Bank of the Philippines has uncovered an additional P229 million in tax payments that were diverted to four private accounts at the Landbank branch in Binangonan, Rizal.

The latest finding by Landbank investigators brings to P432 million the amount involved in the tax scam. Earlier, probers found that P203 million in tax payments of seven big companies had been diverted to the four accounts at the Binangonan branch.

Landbank president Margarito Teves said an ongoing audit showed that an additional P229 million worth of checks paid to the Bureau of Internal Revenue by the same companies were cleared, deposited, and withdrawn from the accounts of four fictitious persons with fictitious addresses.

This is on top of the P203 million in tax payments deposited in the accounts of Roberto Lucero, Alma A. Clemente, Jose

LANDBANK/ A19

IRMA behind Bañez downfall as BIR chief

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

WHEN Rene Bañez met President Macapagal-Arroyo and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho over the weekend, it was already clear that the running conflict between the Bureau of Internal Revenue chief and BIR employees had come to a head.

What finally broke the back of the already uneasy relations between Bañez and the employees was IRMA—the controversial Internal Revenue Management Authority bill, which Bañez had caused to be introduced in Congress. The Irma bill is the first major reform legislation fundamentally restructuring the BIR in the post-Marcos years.

BIR employees stepped up their action to evict Bañez after they discovered that the bill had already been filed.

IRMA seeks structural reforms in tax administration through the creation of an independent revenue authority run by the Revenue Board. IRMA, according to the bill, "would be a new form of public organization with corporate-like features that increases managerial flexibility but strengthens performance and requirements." It seeks authority to adopt a personal personnel management system that is "performance-focused."

IRMA/ A9

RP refugees from Sabah today's boat people

JOAN ORENDAIN

SHANGRI-LA of an island, Mapun in Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi, the first stop of refugees.

By Joan Orendain
Contributor

THIS is Vietnamese boat people redux.

But this time, Filipinos are the refugees. They are either being rescued by the Navy or are paying their way on overloaded small fishing and cargo vessels.

They are mostly Muslims, including hordes of infants and young children, fleeing from Sabah before the Aug. 24 deadline imposed by Malaysia for undocumented workers to leave.

Some of the new arrivals spent several weeks in Malaysian prisons.

All of 612 refugees have

RP REFUGEES/ A18

JOAN ORENDAIN

TALES of horror are told to Naval Forces South chief, Commodore Ernesto de Leon (at left), and Mayor Nickerson Tan after the refugees were picked up by a Navy patrol boat.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2002

Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/21/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Bagulo	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zono	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

No talks till Gloria is gone, says Joma

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands— The founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines said Monday he doesn't expect peace talks with the government to resume until after elections in 2004, effectively stalling negotiations for two years.

Jose Maria Sison, the chief adviser to communist rebels fighting a 34-year insurgency in the Philippines, said it will be impossible to reach a peace deal until the departure of President Macapagal-Arroyo, unless there is a significant government policy shift.

Sison, widely believed to be the leader of the Communist Party and its military wing, the New People's Army, told the Associated Press the government will have to meet a series of conditions if it wants to reopen talks. He blamed the government for a breakdown in relations.

The conditions include recognizing prior agreements giving immunity guarantees to the rebel negotiators living in the Netherlands. Several Communist Party members live here in exile and have participated in sporadic peace talks in recent years.

Formal talks were suspended last year after President Macapagal's administration accused the guerrillas of staging political assassinations and the rebels charged her government of not implementing a human rights accord.

Sison admitted that his conditions will effectively kill chances of reaching peace "for a year and nine months," but said there will always be an opening if the government changes its position.

Ms Macapagal said on Monday her administration was willing to pursue talks with the guerrillas informally.

"No one is stopped from talking to the other side," she said during a visit to Mauban, Quezon province. The area had recently been threatened with rebel attacks, she said. ***AP***

NO IGNORING SENATE REPORT

Military warned of backlash

By Cynthia D. Balana and Martin P. Marfil

SENATE President Franklin Drilon has warned the military it risked a public backlash if it ignores a Senate committee recommendation to subject to a court martial three Army officers accused of colluding with the Abu Sayyaf bandits during a hostage situation in Lamitan, Basilan last year.

Drilon said the Senate would not hesitate to use its powers to enforce the resolution should the military leadership defy the committee recommendation.

The Armed Forces the other day cleared the three officers—Army Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Col. Juvenal Narcise and Maj. Eliseo Campued—who had been accused by some Lamitan residents of having allowed the bandits to escape in exchange for money.

Twenty senators signed the report which found the three liable for possible collusion with Abu Sayyaf bandits at the height of the hostage-taking incident in June 2001.

Drilon said that while the Senate report prepared by the committee on national defense and security was purely recommendatory or in aid of legislation, the Armed Forces erred in prematurely clearing the three officers.

"We are only recommendatory but we also have certain powers that we can use to make sure that our recommendations are given importance and consideration. And we will not hesitate to exercise them assuming that they (the Armed Forces) do not respond and ignore us completely," Drilon said.

The Senate may opt to closely scrutinize next year's defense department budget or file charges against the three officers before the deputy ombudsman for the military, said Drilon.

"They (AFP officials) have to respond to public opinion, apart from the fact that we already made a finding. For the sake of the AFP, they must go through a trial in order to ferret out the truth," the Senate President said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, the committee chair, said he felt bad for the three officers "whose individual military careers were admirable."

"As chairman, I can only do so much. The people of Lamitan have spoken and as everything is factual and the evidence are on record, let the court martial decide the fate of Maj. Gen. Dominguez, Col. Narcise and Maj. Campued," he said.

With regard to the culpability of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and former AFP Chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Magsaysay said the recommendation for the justice department and the Ombudsman's office to conduct further investigations already suggested an expansion of the Senate inquiry.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, who did not sign the report, defended the military reaction, blaming instead the committee report which he described as not standing on solid, legal or procedural grounds.

"The officers were prematurely cleared in the same manner that the draft committee report was prematurely leaked, convicting them through trial by publicity," Honasan said.

"This is the AFP's way of salvaging the situation by preventing further the demoralization which we cannot inflict on the military right now," he said.

The military yesterday insisted that a court martial for the three accused officers was not "automatic" after the Senate recommendation.

A trial of the officers concerned would have to go through several stages, including a pre-trial stage where they could be cleared, said AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling.

In a pre-trial investigation, the accused could be cleared if there is no "prima facie" evidence, he said.

Camiling, who was the chief of the Southern Command at the time of the Lamitan incident, said he believed there was no collusion.

He noted that the former Army Inspector General, Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Rivera, had come out with a report on the Lamitan incident even before the congressional investigations.

In Zamboanga City, Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, the Lamitan parish priest whose allegations against the three military officers prompted the congressional investigations, said he was saddened by the mili-tary's prematurely clearing the three.

He said this could be dangerous and could boomerang on the military.

He said the Senate report was more credible than that of Rivera's which he said was "one-sided."

Instead of clearing the three officials, Nacorda said the military should make public the findings of another investigation, that of Army Inspector General Froilan Maglaya.

Maglaya conducted a probe on the Lamitan siege in March after Rivera came up with his report.

"Maglaya discovered many things by talking directly with the Lamiteños and I believe that he was convinced about (the truth) of our allegation. Most of his findings are self-incriminating. In fact it (Maglaya's report) will implicate many officials," Nacorda said. ***With a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Akbayan taken off list of 'commies'

By Carlito Pablo

GRANTING a request by Akbayan, Malacañang officially announced yesterday that it did not consider the group led by partylist Rep. Loreta Ann Rosales a communist organization.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye made the announcement less than two weeks after President Macapagal-Arroyo said the contrary.

Rosales had earlier taken exception to the President's description of Akbayan as a communist group, along with several others. Her organization was "pluralistic," and not influenced by the Communist Party of the Philippines, Rosales said.

What the President actually said last Aug. 12 was that communism was no longer outlawed and that the government was only after groups like the CPP, which had an armed component.

As examples of non-violent communist organizations, Ms Macapagal mentioned Akbayan, Sanlakas, the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas and the Revolutionary Proletarian Army, a group that has a ceasefire agreement with the government.

Akbayan "appears to be a left-of-center coalition geared towards reform and good government," Bunye said. "We welcome it's participation in our democratic state."

Asked why the Palace was clearing only Akbayan, Bunye said it was mainly because the group's officials had asked.

He said Malacañang would "probably" issue the same clarification if Sanlakas, which President Macapagal previously described as "irritating" but non-violent, made a similar request.

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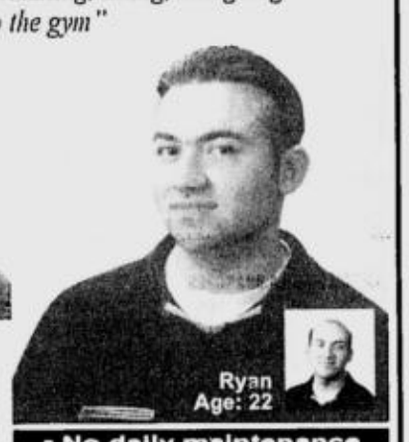
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WATCH OUT FOR MORE UPCOMING BALLOON SEMINARS

Alvarez appointment up at plenary today

By Cynthia D. Balana

TWENTY members of the Commission on Appointment yesterday endorsed for plenary voting today the confirmation of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

A petition signed by its members called for a direct consideration of the nomination in the plenary and a vote whether to accept or reject the nominee.

The petition disregarding the sub-committee level, was pursuant to Section 16, paragraph 2 of the Rules of the CA which states that "the commission, on petition of at least 13 members" may directly consider a nomination or appointment, and thereupon, vote on it.

Rep. Narciso Monfort (Iloilo) said the signatories to the petition said they already considered the length of time in deliberating on the fitness and qualifications of the nominee.

They said that after hearing and disposing of the 20 oppositors to the nomination for the last seven hearings, they have decided to force a vote on the issue.

Monfort insisted that no member can invoke Section 20 because the petition was invoking Section 16.

"Nobody can say that we are coddling the nominee," Monfort said.

Drilon, however, said he expected any CA member opposed to Alvarez to invoke Section 20 of the Rules during this morning's plenary in order to defer the secretary's confirmation.

He said the position of the 20 petitioners, all CA members, for a direct voting was the first time in the history of the CA and a "novel idea."

RP-Indon prisoner swap eyed

JAKARTA—The Philippines and Indonesia are discussing a proposal to repatriate Indonesian Islamic militant Agus Dwirkana and other convicts so they can serve their sentences in their home countries, it was confirmed Tuesday.

Visiting Philippine Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said the proposal would cover not only Dwikarna but all citizens of the two countries.

He was speaking after talks with his Indonesian counterpart Hassan Wirayuda.

Dwikarna was arrested at Ninoy Aquino International Airport in March and jailed for 10 years for possessing explosives. Two other Indonesians arrested with him have since been freed without charges and sent home.

Ople said he had submitted a draft proposal to Indonesia, adding that it would help both countries in addressing "problems caused by the conviction and the sentencing" of Dwikarna. *AFP*

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	HANDLE TYPE	"U" handle
ENGINE	TYPE	Air cooled2
	DISPLACEMENT(cc)	40.0
	MAXIMUM OUTPUT(ps)	2.0
	FUEL	gasoline mixed w/ lubricant
	FUEL TANK CAP.(l)	0.9
	STARTER	Recoil type
	IGNITION	Non contact electronic ignition
	CARBURETOR	Diaphragm
	NET WEIGHT(kg)	8.2

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DSAP

6th National Convention

August 22 - 23, 2002
Manila Hotel

MESSAGES

My most cordial felicitations to the officers and members of the **Drugstores Association of the Philippines (DSAP)** on its *6th Annual Convention.*

I laud your organization for your dedication in continuing to improve the drug store industry in the country. In doing so, you have substantially contributed to the health and welfare of millions of Filipinos and helped them become productive members of society.

This year's theme, *"Prevailing Over the Challenges of Globalization,"* concretizes your firm commitment to provide affordable medicines to the Filipino masses amidst the threats of global competition. I hope that this affair will create opportunities for Filipino drug stores to further their achievements in this era of modernization and provide impetus to greater participation in our government's poverty alleviation efforts.

This Administration recognizes the vital role of our drug stores in producing a healthier and more productive Filipino citizenry. We stand to prosper as a people and as a country if every Filipino is given easy access to quality health care. I therefore enjoin the Drug Stores Association of the Philippines (DSAP) to help in this noble objective so that our dream of a strong and healthy people can be realized.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

H.E. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the **Drugstores Association of the Philippines (DSAP)** as it holds its **6th Annual Convention** on August 22-23, 2002.

The advent of globalization has led to the open trade policy which has revolutionized the way the industries of various countries in the world are being developed and promoted at the moment. The healthcare industry is not spared from this global trend and has thus been affected by the changes brought about by globalization.

This year's theme, *"Prevailing Over the Challenges of Globalization"*, manifests DSAP's genuine concern to equip its members with the necessary tools to effectively compete in an increasingly global market while enhancing the unity within its vast network of partner-establishments.

I am glad to know that the membership of DSAP is one in its objective of consolidating its rank to further enhance its capability to deal with the challenges of globalization. I hope that this unity likewise serve as a driving force for DSAP to fulfill its mandate of providing not only quality medicine for its clientele but in making available affordable pharmaceutical products as well, in support of government's drive to lower the prices of drugs in the market.

Let us also actively support the campaign against substandard and counterfeit drugs as only vigilant consumers supported by a socially responsible drug retail sector would be able stamp out such a menace in our country.

As you hold this convention, I exhort everyone to join the rest of the health sector in pushing for much-needed reforms that are envisioned to improve the quality of life for many of our Filipino brothers and sisters.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Hon. MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc.
Secretary
Department of Health

Our warmest greetings to the **Drugstores Association of the Philippines (DSAP)** on your 6th **Annual Convention** at the Manila Hotel on August 22-23 with the theme ***" Prevailing Over the Challenges of Globalization".***

It is heartening to note that from only 15 companies in 1984 when it was organized, **DSAP** has emerged today as an organization with a wide-based membership of 4,000 community drugstores from all over the country. Indeed, **DSAP** has come a long way as an active player in and a unified voice for the Philippine drugstore industry.

The **DTI** is one with **DSAP** as you continue to seek ways to better serve the needs of the Filipino buying public, possibly through collaboration with the various drug manufacturers and distributors in developing innovative mechanisms to enhance efficiency, thereby reducing costs passed on to consumers. Likewise, **DTI** supports **DSAP**'s thrusts of fostering good pharmaceutical and business practices, encouraging sound ethical standards and promoting higher levels of excellence in the industry's operations and services - as these are geared towards promoting consumer welfare.

Today, as **DTI** seeks to bring down high medicine prices in the local market to more reasonable and affordable levels for many ordinary Filipino consumers —especially those who cannot afford the expensive cost of health care — through our ***Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya Program***, we encourage **DSAP** to find ways to complement government efforts towards this end. The **Program**, which involves the importation of widely recognized, off-patent, branded medicines usually prescribed for the most common ailments and diseases, also seeks to ensure the best value-for-money for Filipino consumers.

We take this opportunity to convey our sincere congratulations and wish **DSAP** success in its continuing efforts to promote healthcare by ensuring the quality and affordability of medicines to the public.

Mabuhay!

Hon. MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

I extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to the officers and members of the Drugstores Association of the Philippines (DSAP) on the occasion of its 6th Annual Convention.

With its 4,000 members nationwide, DSAP has evolved as a vital force in strengthening the drugstore business and equipping its members with the necessary tools to face new market challenges. The DSAP has also been a constant partner of the Bureau of Food and Drugs in ensuring the safety, efficacy and quality of all medicines that are available to all consumers.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the DSAP for taking the lead in uplifting the local drugstore business and for " Prevailing Over the Challenges of Globalization " .

More power to your organization and may you have a successful and fruitful celebration.

WILLIAM D. TORRES, Ph.D.
Director IV
Bureau of Food and Drugs

We face tough times in the drugstore industry. Stiff competition in the playing field and other pressing issues confront both government and private sector in our business. It is precisely amidst these trying times that we are encouraged to come together to pool our resources and address the issues as one body.

Since our last convention, we have witnessed continuous growth in membership and we are now challenged to build on our solidarity in order to find common solutions. I believe that this is indeed an opportune time to meet and gather our forces.

I personally extend my invitation to all drugstore owners to participate actively in the 6th DSAP National Convention. Your participation will benefit your colleagues as you demonstrate your solidarity in common issues and express your support for the association's drive towards competency, efficiency, and overall profitability.

With your cooperation, we will achieve in this convention, a stronger and more unified DSAP.

GLORIA N. DE CHAVEZ
National President

August 22-23, 2002 marks the 6th DSAP National Convention. Our theme "Prevailing Over the Challenges Of Globalization" aptly addresses the pressing concerns we face in our industry. We have carefully chosen our line-up of speakers to give us a balance of current issues, positive attitudes and relevant tips to widen our perspectives and influence our decision-making.

And not to forget, the learning is balanced with entertainment and fellowship. The lighter side of the convention will take on a broadway look as even our sponsors have agreed to dress up their activities with various broadway selections. We rely on the DSAP Chapter Presidents to ensure that their respective delegation will enhance the fellowship times!

As your hosts, we welcome you to the historical Manila Hotel and wish you a productive and more memorable convention.

Mabuhay!

CELIA O. CARLOS
Chairperson
6th DSAP National Convention

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FEE

MEMBER	P 3,500.00
NON-MEMBER	P 4,000.00
NO FRILLS*	P 1,000.00

***No meals and no convention kit**

PAYMENTS

Registration Form must be accompanied by payment of registration fees. Registration will not be processed until payment is made. Only payments in cash or company check will be accepted. Check payments must be addressed to the DSAP Convention.

Inclusions:

- Participation in the official Conference Program
- Convention kit and materials
- Meals (as specified in the program)
- Participation in all social functions
- Certificate of Attendance
- 8 CPE Units
- Full access to Exhibit Hall

ACCOMMODATIONS

All delegates have been extended a special room rate per night at the following hotels:

a. Manila Hotel - Single/Twin - P3,500.00 net/night Triple - P5,000.00
b. Bayview - Single/Twin - P2,000.00 net/night

Above rates are inclusive of breakfast and are net of taxes.

DRESS CODE

Business attire for the conference sessions.

August 22 : Dinner & Awards Night
Attire: Strictly formal (Evening gown/cocktail dress for the ladies
Barong / Coat & Tie for the gentlemen)

August 23 : Dinner & Fellowship Night
Attire: Come in your broadway costume

6TH DSAP NATIONAL CONVENTION
Program of Activities

August 22, 2002

8:00 am	Start of Registration Opening of Election Precint
8:30 - 9:30 am	Mass
9:30 am	Opening Ceremonies
10:30 am	Opening of Exhibits Tour of Trade Exhibits
12:00 nn - 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Plenary Session, Speaker 1 – **Mr. Francis J. Kong** General Manager, Company B – Topic: Tough Times Management
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Snack Break
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Plenary Session, Talakayan – **Prof. Solita C. Monsod** Broadcaster / TV Host, Economist, Journalist
4:00 - 4:30 pm	Presentation of DSAP Election Candidates
4:30 - 7:00 pm	Free Time
7:00 pm	Dinner / Awards Night Fellowship / Entertainment

August 23, 2002

8:30 - 9:00 am	President's Report – **Ms. Gloria N. de Chavez** DSAP National President
9:00 - 10:00 am	Plenary Session, Speaker 2 – **Mr. Manuel M. Concio III** Regional Channel Manager Johnson & Johnson – Topic: Global Trends on Retailing
10:00 - 10:30 am	Snack Break
10:30 - 11:30 am	Plenary Session, Speaker 3 – **Prof. Jose M. Faustino** Faculty, Asian Institute of Management Program Director, AIM Marketing Strategy Course – Topic: How Solidarity Can Prevail Over Globalization
11:30 - 12:00 nn	Presentation of The Philippine Quality Award – **Mr. Virgilio P. Fulgencio** Executive Director, Department of Trade and Industry Center for Industrial Competitiveness
12:00 nn - 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Plenary Session, Speaker 4 – **Ms. Catherine B. Palma** President, Int'l Customer Management Systems – Topic: Building a Service Excellence Culture in Your Drugstore
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Snack Break
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Plenary Session, Speaker 5 – **Mr. Jaime Ramon M. Paredes** Entertainer, and Member of the APO Hiking Society, Lecturer – Topic: Embracing Change
4:00 - 4:30 pm	DSAP Photo Session Closing of Election Precint
4:30 - 7:00 pm	Free Time
7:00 pm	Dinner / Gabi ng Pasasalamat / Closing Ceremonies Fellowship / Entertainment / Raffle

The Drugstores Association of the Philippines
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on 21 August 2002 at Club Intramuros, Roxas Blvd., Manila
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DSAP SECRETARIAT:

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Telefax: (632) 633-5253
E-mail: dsap@info.com.ph
Website: http://www.dsap.manila.ph

Villar asks Australia to recall travel advisory

By C. D. Balana

SEN. Manny Villar yesterday urged Australia to reconsider its advisory asking its citizens to refrain from travelling to Metro Manila and parts of Mindanao.

"This certainly sends a negative signal to the international community especially at a time when we are trying to attract tourists into our country," Villar, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said.

Villar said that while the Philippines acknowledged the concern of the Australian government to protect its citizens, such an advisory does not augur well for the country's tourism program as most parts of the country were safe for foreign visitors.

He said the advisory will paint a negative over-all picture of the country and will bring to fore the need to improve the peace and order situation in the country and protect tourists from criminal elements.

"There is definitely a need to heighten measures to protect tourists who come to our country. The Department of Tourism must coordinate with the PNP and law enforcers to come up with a stronger program to heighten tourist protection," he added.

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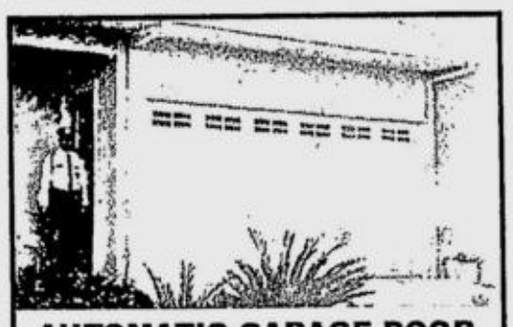

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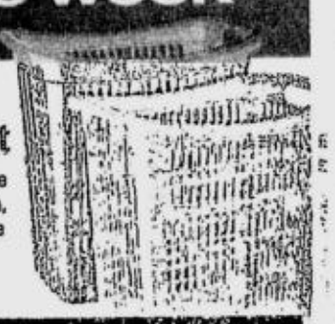

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'Zorro' writes 30

ANTONIO 'Zorro' Zorrilla, founding chair and CEO of ZPA/PR Consulting, the nation's leading perceptions management firm, died on Sunday of heart failure, according to a family spokesperson. He was 70.

His remains were cremated on Monday. A memorial service will be held on Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Union Church, Legaspi corner Rada streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Zorro, as Zorrilla was fondly called, was one of the country's leading practitioners of public relations, advertising, and news and public affairs. Noted as one of the founders of the country's 4As, he is considered the dean of Philippine advertising.

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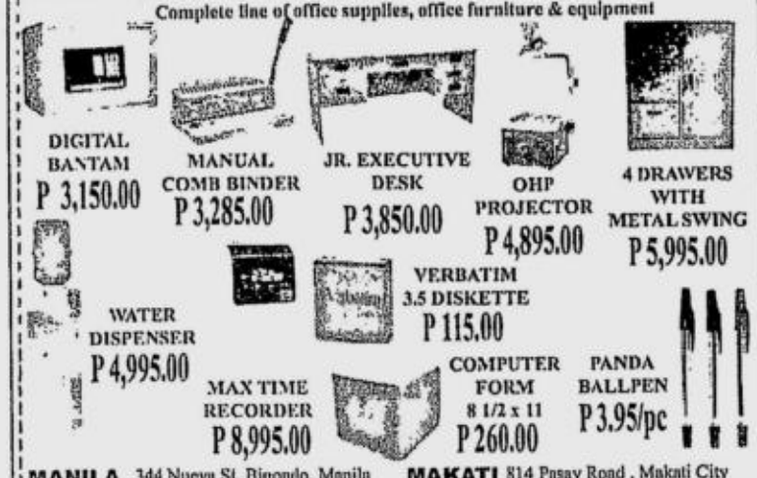

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Aventajado suing ex-hostage for libel

By Juliet L. Javellana

FORMER hostage negotiator Robert Aventajado is suing one of the German hostages of the Abu Sayyaf who accused him of pocketing part of the ransom that was paid to obtain their release.

Aventajado, flagship projects adviser to ex-President Joseph Estrada, said he has directed a lawyer in Germany to file libel or similar charges against Warner Wallert, who was held hostage by the terrorist group along with his wife and son for several months in 2000.

Wallert had told CNN last week that Estrada and Aventajado were the "bad guys"' in the episode, who had forced the ransom demand up and then taken part of the money.

Wallert said the "good guys" who bought the hostages' freedom were Libyan Ambassador Rajab Azzarouq and the Khadafi Charity Foundation, which reportedly paid $1 million per foreign hostage to the Abu Sayyaf.

Wallert, his wife Renate and son Marc were among the foreign tourists seized by the Abu Sayyaf from the Sipadan resort in Malaysia on April 23, 2000.

Aventajado, whom Estrada designated to negotiate in behalf of the government, wrote CNN to deny Wallert's charges.

He said Wallert was "repeating a lie and it isn't even a new one." He said the German magazine, Der Spiegel, had published the same accusation two years ago, but failed to produce the transcripts of alleged satellite phone conversations between himself and Commander Robot, an Abu Sayyaf leader.

"They couldn't produce the transcripts so Der Spiegel published my letter of protest. So much for proof," Aventajado said in his letter to CNN.

Aventajado told CNN that Wallert made the belated accusation to promote his book about his family's captivity, noting the hostage had taken photos in captivity for this.

Plane diverted to save RP boy, but to no avail

SEATTLE—A 22-month-old boy en route to Tokyo died Monday even after the flight was diverted here to seek medical aid.

The child, from the Philippines, had recently undergone heart surgery and developed respiratory distress after Northwest Flight 1 left Los Angeles, airline spokesperson Marybeth Schubert said. The boy was not identified.

The plane was diverted to Seattle, and the boy was airlifted to Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center. He died Monday evening, said hospital spokesperson Georgia Taylor, who said his parents were with him. *AP*

De Leon, 64

ROMEO C. de Leon died on Monday at the age of 64.

His remains lie at the Arlington Memorial Chapels on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

Interment will be held on Saturday at the North Cemetery in Manila at 2 p.m.

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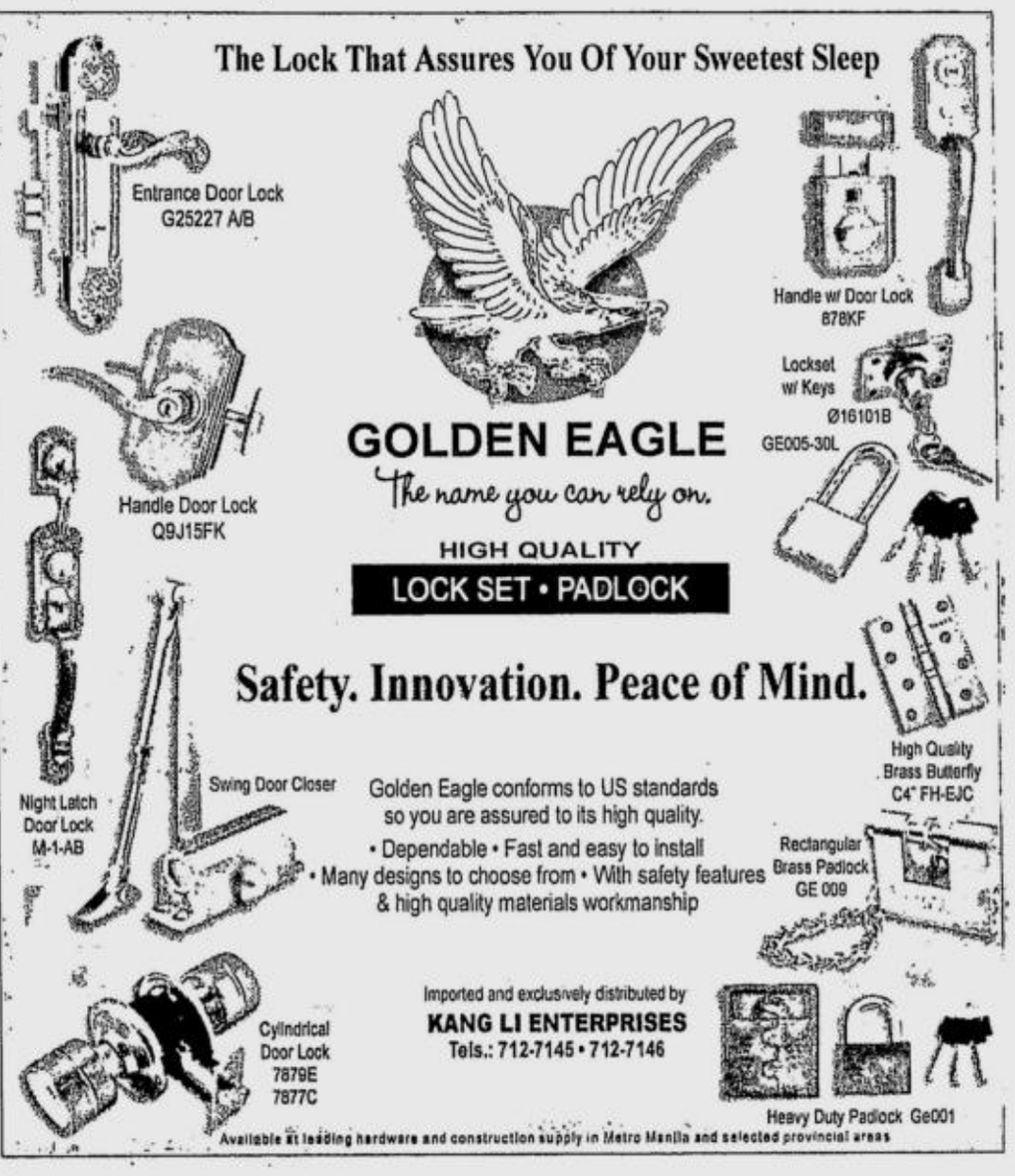

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THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS (PCP) ON PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 4955 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MEDICAL MALPRACTICE BILL

The Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) , the umbrella organization of specialists in Internal Medicine in the country, a founding member society of the ASEAN Federation of Internal Medicine, and a member of the International Society of Internal Medicine stands by and upholds its mission to provide an environment that promotes ethical, high quality and cost-effective medical care. A relationship between the physician and his patient defined by mistrust under threat of litigation is not such an environment.

The **PCP** supports and abides by the policies of the government that benefit the health and welfare of the nation whom physicians seek to serve.

The **PCP** upholds the physician's basic purpose - to heal and do no harm.

The **PCP** upholds that physicians are also human - they make mistakes.

The **PCP** is cognizant of the erring elements in the medical profession. It is equally aware, also, that mechanisms exist to upgrade and ensure quality health care through an accreditation process, morbidity and mortality audits, continuing medical education, regular evaluation procedures, written and oral certifying examination for the diplomate board, and institutional/hospital review boards. Existing mechanisms are also in place that correct, penalize and punish erring physicians.

Offenses are reported, investigated and acted upon after due process in the courts of law (Regional Trial Court, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court), in the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the PMA, the PCP, the respective specialty medical organizations where these physicians belong, as well as the institutional hospital ethics board.

The **PCP** seeks to understand the noble intention behind the bill on medical malpractice, "HB 4955", if such is, indeed, to promote quality health care and ensure public safety. Unfortunately, the bill criminalizes acts of doctors that lead to bad outcomes. Physicians find fulfillment in providing care and saving lives; but adverse and unwanted events do occur in the course of their work. Physicians can wisely speculate on an outcome but cannot exactly predict the real outcome. Moreover, the penalties are harsh, no better than those given to hardened criminals who really intended to inflict harm when they committed their acts.

HB 4955 maligns and compromises the "art of healing". It provides that acts of physicians that do not result to a favorable outcome are easily subjected to litigation. Fear of lawsuits will distort rational judgment in medical practice. "Defensive" medicine and "cookbook" type of management will ensue. Cost of medical care will unnecessarily escalate to the benefit of self-serving business entities and to the detriment of the general public.

There have been numerous life-saving outcomes of treatment administered by the majority of our Filipino physicians. Surely, many more patients have lived longer, happier lives after seeking their doctor's expertise. HB 4955 addresses a very minute health problem compared to the preponderance of good results provided by the medical profession.

PCP estimates 1 complaint per 1.1 million patients attended to. This minute problem is addressed by the mentioned existing mechanisms. HB 4955 ignores the service given to society by the great majority in the medical profession and, in fact, seeks to effect a legislation for the negligent few at the expense of the conscientious many.

THE PCP MAKES THE FOLLOWING DECLARATIONS :

1) **HB 4955 invalidates PCP's mission statement and undermines the physician's relationship with his patients.**
2) **HB 4955 does not assure quality health care and may, in fact, make health care expensive.**
3) **HB 4955 will not benefit the general public.**
4) **HB 4955 is not necessary.**
5) **HB 4955 should not be passed into law.**

The Secretariat. The Philippine College of Physicians. 22/F, One San Miguel Avenue Building San Miguel Ave. cor. Shaw Blvd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. nos. 910-2250, 910-2252 Fax. no 910-2251 E-mail address : pcp@info.com.ph

Fight 'not over' at BIR; probe sought

By Agnes E. Donato

"WE are happy, but the fight is not over."

This was the general sentiment among workers at the Bureau of Internal Revenue over the resignation of Commissioner Rene Bañez, an employee told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Bañez's claim that government reforms at the bureau had been sabotaged by corrupt and inept tax collectors was "a sweeping statement," the source said.

"He makes it appear that everyone here but himself is to blame for his failure to improve tax collection," the source said. "He says everyone conspired against him. How (could that happen), when most of the collectors in the field were his appointees?"

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez yesterday called for a House probe into Bañez's allegations, demanding names.

"He cannot just fade away from public service without (identifying) the culprits and saboteurs . . considering that tax collection is the lifeblood of the nation," Gonzalez said in a House resolution.

Bañez claimed in his resignation that the saboteurs deliberately cut back on collections during the first half of the year. This was a "very serious" charge, Gonzalez said, since government was "suffering from tax revenue shortfalls (that have) endangered economic reforms."

Gonzalez told the INQUIRER that the culprits should be exposed, especially now that Congress was discussing the creation of an Internal Revenue Management Authority (IRMA) to replace BIR.

In a statement, the BIR Employees Association (Birea) pledged its support to whoever would replace Bañez, but vowed to continue fighting the passage of IRMA.

The group assured President Macapagal-Arroyo and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho that it would "not oppose the administration's thrust to transform the BIR into an autonomous revenue body, free from political pressures."

However, Birea maintained "unequivocal objection" to certain provisions of House Bill 5054 creating IRMA which, the members said, impinged on their civil service and human rights as career public servants.

They particularly opposed "the impending wholesale dismissal or displacement of 13,000 BIR employees," since under the IRMA, employees would be hired on performance-based contracts.

This could be "subject to abuse," Birea said, reiterating the workers' fears that they would altogether lose security of tenure guaranteed under the Civil Service laws.

The group recommended "comprehensive structural reforms" that should be formulated with the participation of both the officials and rank-and-file employees.

Bañez allegedly kept the IRMA bill from the employees for 14 months. Employees found out about the IRMA bill, Birea said, only when the Congress Committee on Ways and Means sent the association a copy last July 7, to ask for comments. ***With Christine O. Avendano***

House to tackle malpractice bill

By R. C. Dancel and C. O. Avendaño

LEGISLATORS opposed to the passage of a medical malpractice bill will have a chance to debate the measure today.

House Bill 4955, "An Act Punishing the Malpractice of any Medical Practitioner in the Philippines, and for other Purposes," will be taken up for the first time in the House justice committee.

The bill was authored separately by House Minority Leader Constantino Jaraulla and Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, who nearly lost a son in a botched operation 12 years ago.

Rodriguez has been pushing for the bill since the 10th Congress. He said the bill stands to benefit not only the public but the medical profession itself.

"The misfits in the medical profession would be removed," he said in a phone interview.

But the Philippine Medical Association, the country's largest organization of physicians with 30,000 members, has threatened to boycott medical missions sponsored by congressmen who support the bill, as well as to work against their reelection.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

NATIONAL PRICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Despite the recent increase in oil prices, prices of prime commodities have remained stable for the past 4 months (April 2002 - August 2002). This survey is based on the DTI's price monitoring activities in Metro Manila conducted in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and the Consumer & Oil Price Watch, week ending August 17th, covering 40 wet markets and 20 supermarkets.

COMMODITIES	Prices Week Ending April 14, 2002	Average Prices week ending Aug. 17, 2002	
		Supermarket	Wet Market
Ordinary Rice	P 19.70	P 20.76	P 20.00
Evaporated Milk (370 ml) (Alaska & Carnation)	21.60	21.60	22.69
Powdered Filled Milk (Bear Brand 180 g)	28.75	28.62	29.13
Coffee Refill Packs (50 g) (Blend 45, Cafe Puro, Great Taste, Nescafé)	20.70 -23.50	20.50 -23.92	22.17 - 23.77
Canned Sardines (155 g) (Master, 555, Ligo)	8.15	7.99 - 8.09	8.13 -8.41
Detergent Bar (Mr. Clean, Surf)	15.30 - 16.75	14.93	15.57
Pork Liempo	120.00	120.00	120.89
Dressed Chicken (Magnolia)	81.40	93.65	84.56
Refined Sugar (1 kg) (Luisita & Victoria)	26.55	26.61	26.23
Brown Sugar (1 kg)	22.40	22.41	22.56
Cooking Oil			
Lapad/Bilog	9.70	11.17	10.68
Long Neck	20.20	21.01	20.68

MANUEL A. ROXAS II
Secretary
Department of Trade & Industry

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Consumer & Oil Price Watch

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2848 Series of 2002

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2002

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Unfinished business

EDITORIALS

IT WAS not a pleasant departure from the Bureau of Internal Revenue for Rene Bañez, but at least he had the consolation of announcing his own resignation. That is a courtesy Malacañang doesn't extend even to top administration officials, including Vice President Teofisto Guingona whose resignation as foreign secretary was announced prematurely by the Palace.

But then Bañez seemed to be really special: an official who enjoyed the full trust and confidence as well as the abiding respect of President Macapagal-Arroyo. No other official received the same assurance of support from the President who made special mention of Bañez's campaign to reform the BIR in her first State of the Nation Address last year. Which only makes his resignation doubly regrettable.

Bañez announced his resignation Monday, saying he "felt betrayed' by some people blocking his reforms. Instead of supporting his efforts, he said, these people worked to bring him down. He charged that "a few perpetrators" in the BIR were sabotaging his reform program "by deliberately cutting back on collections during the first half of the year." These employees were "holding the country hostage in their desire to protect their own personal interests," he added.

Bañez was blamed by some lawmakers for the huge revenue shortfall that sent the budget deficit soaring to P120 billion during the first half of the year, just P10 billion shy of the deficit programmed for the whole year. With collections during the first semester falling short of the target by P35.46 billion, the BIR seemed to be on the way to setting a new record, breaking the P37 billion shortfall in 2000.

However, the year 2000 was a bad year, with the political turbulence buffeting the Estrada administration coming on top of the lingering effects of the Asian financial crisis. This year isn't as bad, although the government has had to scale down its growth forecast—in large part because of the widening budget deficit. Businessmen say the economic fundamentals are all right, so why are revenue collections threatening to contract for the first time? Bañez apparently had very good reasons to cry sabotage.

But how does his getting out of the BIR solve the problem? Despite the President's evident faith in him, Malacañang seems to think that letting him go was one way out. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Bañez made the "self-sacrifice" because he felt he could no longer get the cooperation of other BIR officials and employees. Coming from a man who had the full backing of the President, that sounds like a cop-out.

So who will straighten things out at the BIR? If, despite the President's unstinting support, Bañez couldn't get the BIR employees to work and make his reforms stick, who can do it?

Businessmen say Bañez was the right man for the job. Maybe not. The right man would not have handed the enemies of reform and good government an easy victory. A better man would have hung on and hung tough, and he would not have left without finishing the cleanup he had begun.

Unending sacrifice

WE WERE all born, again, on Aug. 21.

Nineteen years ago, at a time of deep uncertainty over the future of the nation, a man returned bearing the gift of certitude. Former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. returned to remind us of the one thing many had already forgotten: the essential truth that the Filipino was truly worth dying for.

The forgetting process began as soon as martial law was declared, leading an American senator to famously remark that the Philippines was peopled by 40 million cowards run by one SOB. The machinery of martial law accelerated the process, by creatively confusing the fate of the nation with the personality cult of the conjugal dictatorship. By 1983, in the middle of the worst economic crisis since the end of World War II, the sense of drift and despair was thick. The pro-democracy movement continued to make some headway in highly urbanized areas and in the countryside, but the country as a whole seemed—quite literally—hopeless.

Aquino's return, and his act of self-sacrifice, quickened the life of the nation, and gave it hope.

Will GMA extend Cimatu's tour of duty?

AS I SEE IT
Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo told journalists during dinner at Malacañang last Friday that she would not extend the term of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Roy Cimatu who is scheduled to retire next month. Apparently, she has changed her mind, for she has reportedly sent his appointment papers through the proper channels for an extension of his term. Why the change of heart?

Cimatu may have to thank the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army for his extension (if it is indeed extended). But ironically, his assignment as AFP chief would be to stamp out the CPP-NPA, without whom he would be retired next September. Yes, Cimatu may be extended for one reason alone: the President's declaration of all-out war against the CPP-NPA.

Given the enormousness of that task ahead, it may not be good to change horses in midstream, so to speak. It may be a waste of time and talent to let Cimatu go at this time. Logic dictates that he will now have to be given ample time to see this campaign through at least to a good start.

Indeed, the President had good words for Cimatu during the dinner. She said Filipino and American officers were all impressed by Cimatu's ability during the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf and the Balikatan exercises. The only reason she did not want to extend his services, she said, was to allow other generals to be given the chance to be chief of staff. But now that the AFP has been committed to this "all-out" war against the CPP-NPA, she may opt to have a general with proven competence waging the war instead of somebody else of unknown caliber.

I recall that in May 1996, then AFP Chief of Staff Arturo Enrile reached the mandatory retirement age of 56. However, he was given another five months, or up to December 1996, to serve in order not to disrupt the ongoing preparations for the Apec heads of state meeting held in Manila that year. He had to oversee the implementation of the overall security plan which was developed during his watch. A war is definitely more serious than an Apec meeting.

The biggest argument against Cimatu's extension is the compulsory retirement age of military personnel. The Constitution provides that the laws on retirement of military officers shall not allow extension of their services.

The Constitution also provides that "the tour of duty of the chief of staff of the Armed Forces shall not exceed three years. However, in times of war or other national emergency declared by Congress, the President may extend such tour of duty."

In the case of Enrile, then Justice Secretary (now Vice President) Teofisto Guingona ruled that the three-year tour of duty of the AFP chief of staff extends beyond the compulsory retirement age.

Answering a query of the AFP judge advocate general, Brig. Gen. Francisco M. Paredes, Guingona said that although the Constitution does not allow the extension of services of retireable officers, it makes an exception of the chief of staff.

Because of the importance of the position of AFP chief of staff, the President can exercise the prerogative to decide on his continuance in office even if he has already reached retirement age, Guingona said.

"The language of the constitutional provision and the deliberations of the drafters thereof evince the intent to grant broad discretionary authority to the President to decide the continuation of the tour of duty of the chief of staff as long as the three-year limit is not exceeded," he explained.

"Considering this intention, underlying the subject constitutional provision and its silence on the termination of such tour of duty upon reaching the compulsory retirement age, it is my opinion that the chief of staff may continue his tour of duty even beyond his compulsory retirement at the President's discretion.

"A specific provision has been adopted in the case of the chief of staff because of the importance of his position. As commanding general of the AFP, he has special relations with the commander in chief. In the case of the chief of staff, therefore, the constitutional provision prescribes a maximum limit for his tour of duty, but does not fix this term to three years. The rationale behind this provision is to maintain the President's prerogative to decide on the continuance in office of the chief of staff, subject only to the three-year limit. This is the plain meaning of the phrase 'shall not exceed three years.' It is settled that the language of the Constitution should be understood in the sense they have in common use."

Justice Secretary Guingona's opinion is believed to be the last word on the issue because it clarifies what had been the source of confusion in the past regarding succession to the top AFP post.

But while it opens the door to Cimatu's extension, the doorkeeper is really the President. She will have to decide whether or not to open it for Cimatu.

J'accuse

THERE'S THE RUB
Conrado de Quiros

THOUGH not entirely exact, the Dreyfus case and the Ramirez case have startling parallels.

The Dreyfus case, which rocked France in the last decade of the 19th century, had to do with an army captain, Alfred Dreyfus, who was wrongly charged with selling secrets to Germany. He was tried and convicted, and though the real spy was discovered during his incarceration, his guilt was upheld by the higher courts. The reason for this was military honor. No one wanted to put it on record that the military had erred, as this would presumably undercut its effectiveness. Better the sacrifice of one innocent man for the good of all.

Ramirez's case is different from this firstly in that Acsa Ramirez is not a public figure, specifically one sworn to obey strict, often perverse, rules of conduct, which Dreyfus was. She is a private person who was forced to damn iniquity in public only by the prick of conscience. Ramirez's case is different secondly in that she did not just happen to be in the way while an investigation of wrongdoing was taking place. She herself initiated the investigation by calling attention to the crime. Ramirez's case is different thirdly in that Ramirez has not yet been convicted, or has had that conviction upheld by the higher courts. She remains free, whatever the quality of that freedom may now mean for her and her family.

But otherwise, it is the same thing in that it entails the sacrifice of an innocent person for the apparent good of the nation. It is the same thing in that it entails the continuing persecution of an innocent person just to prove the point that the National Bureau of Investigation chief and the President are incapable of making absolute fools of themselves while "humiliating criminals." It is the same thing in that it entails a breathtaking injustice.

And so I am compelled as well, by all that a pen-wielder holds sacred, to rise to accuse:

I accuse Jaime Cardinal Sin and Bishop Socrates Villegas, and all their subordinates of utter silence. I find it ironic that the very same people who managed to fulminate from the depths of their being against "Live Show," a perfectly respectable movie, one that bares in more ways than one the truth about the lives of the dregs of the earth, can afford to tolerate true obscenity when it stares them in the face, one that bares the lie in more ways than one about GMA's plan to free our lives of the dregs of the earth. Can anything be more prurient than the systematic destruction of an innocent person—no, more than an innocent person, a heroic one—for no other reason than that the President has to "salvage" the truth to salvage face? I thought the Catholic Church had left the days of the Inquisition when it put people to the rack, or burned them, shouting "Confess! Confess!," just to keep a faith pure and beyond question. This is the Inquisition, and you grovel before it.

I accuse the senators and congressmen of utter indifference. I accuse them of playing the fiddle, with their silly games about who gets what committee or position, or which side gets more numbers, while the world burns. There is nothing more flammable, or incendiary, than an ordinary person being hounded to death—that is what the loss of a good name is for those who value it—for posing an embarrassment to the most powerful person of the land. None of your laws will matter if you allow this basic, elemental, primordial act of lawlessness to pass. No, more than lawlessness, the systematic mangling of the law, the turning of it into a grotesque and misshapen mask.

I accuse civil society, or the NGOs, of being utterly lost. Can it be that the sector of society sworn to protect the poor and downtrodden cannot see a monumental injustice done to one of them when it stares them in the face? Or can it be that your desire to gain power so that you may do good has blinded you to what in fact is good or bad? It does not matter that you gain the whole world but lose your soul. But for peace bonds! Some souls come cheap.

But more than they, I accuse Reynaldo Wycoco of making the life of one who deserves heaven a living hell. What can you do when the country's chief investigator is determined to prove you are a criminal? What can you do when you are fighting a police force that has been known to find grenade launchers and cartons of shabu in the luggage compartment of suspects? Ramirez has complained to the INQUIRER about unsavory characters loitering in her neighborhood and asking questions about her and her family. We may safely assume they are not communists or terrorists. Heaven forbid, Wycoco et al., but if something should happen to Ramirez or any of her loved ones, I will pin the blame on you. In fact, she retracts her testimony, and I will put the blame on you.

But above all, I accuse President Macapagal, the person we put in power to erase all vestiges of Erap's rule but who has restored it detail by detail, down to discovering that Mike Velarde is truly anointed. Are you so blinded by a desire to get elected you cannot see that the be-all and end-all of fighting crime is to bring justice into this world? That the premise of upholding the law is to punish the guilty and reward the innocent? That what you do to the least of your brethren you do not unto Mike Velarde but someone higher than him? What can an ordinary citizen do when her very own President is determined to find her guilty of the crime she exposed? What can Ramirez do when you have appeared on television practically finding her guilty of the crime she exposed? What can she do when you have appointed yourself her judge, her jury and what may not long remain metaphorical, her executioner?

I too am nothing, I am an ordinary citizen. But I stand before you now, and I accuse.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@ vasia.com

IRMA behind Bañez downfall

From p. A1

BIR employees fear, however, that the bill would give IRMA's chief executive officer sweeping powers to hire and fire in the name of efficiency and of purging the agency of corruption.

Even at the beginning of his term, the BIR had already sought to indict Bañez criminally for plunder and conflict of interests. When he took office, Bañez offended the employees with the statement, "I will destroy the BIR and build a new one." He described his mission as "transformation." To many senior staff, whom he reshuffled, the IRMA project was the translation into legislation of his "transformation" program and reformist zeal.

In his resignation statement, Bañez lashed at "a few perpetrators" who "are out to sabotage the reforms by cutting back on the collection during the first half" of the year. Camacho said that the bad blood and mistrust between Bañez and the BIR Employees Association found focus in IRMA. "Bañez became the personification of IRMA."

Even the employees concede IRMA is a good concept. In their manifesto, they concede that the "good elements" of IRMA include giving the BIR autonomy, and creating a corporate culture for improved efficiency, productivity and professionalism. But they would like to see IRMA without Bañez. The employees are concerned that the sweeping powers of hiring and firing would cut the BIR's 12,000-person plantilla by half, and there is no guarantee that those separated or retired would get entitlements now available in the civil service.

But it cannot also be discounted that for corrupt BIR officials, removal would mean depriving them of power and authority to engage in corrupt practices.

The IRMA concept has the backing of the private sector, but the International Monetary Fund, in its report of December 2001, said the BIR should not reorganize itself around customer segments but "should initially focus its efforts on improving both its functional specialization across the board and also significantly enhance its taxpayers service focus."

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

The IMF report said it "does not consider that attempts should be made to implement a revenue authority at this state." While it accepts that the BIR "needs improved flexibility, in both financial and human resource management... it is possible to achieve such flexibility without the introduction of a Revenue Authority."

The IRMA bill cites successful models of structural reforms in tax administration, such as those in Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Spain and Singapore where revenue performance had increased by over 10 percentage points of the gross national product.

The bill said that one way of reducing the deficit is to cut down on public expenditures. But, in the face of the 2004 elections, this option is politically undesirable. Reducing government spending "would run counter to the need for more public expenditures, particularly on health, education, and infrastructure, to combat poverty and foster development. Cutting down on government expenditure is therefore not the answer."

"The answer lies in increasing the government's revenue collection effort... The BIR needs to improve its tax collection effort from the current 10.8 percent to 14 percent in the next three years. A one percent increase in the ration translates into an increase in tax collection of approximately P40 billion a year... Unfortunately, the BIR cannot meet such a target without fundamental changes in the way it currently operates."

Herein lies the crux of the dilemma. The BIR does not have the administrative culture upon which to install the reforms envisaged by IRMA.

As pointed out by the IMF report, "with the exception of the Inland Authority of Singapore... not one of the world's more effective and successful tax administrations has found it necessary to take that step. From the very limited number of models available for study, it does seem that to be successful, an autonomous Revenue Authority first requires a management discipline and culture. To be successful requires a management discipline and culture of performance management and monitoring that does not currently exist in the BIR." Something had to give.

Bañez, in a briefing with the INQUIRER last Friday, agreed that the IRMA concept is a bold leap toward reform. His aides find the IMF "too conservative," but the question is do we have to adopt these reforms without adequate preparation?

He gave the briefing even though he had already indicated earlier in the week his intention to resign. In September last year, he also tendered his resignation but was prevailed to soldier on.

He did not give the indication he was resigning and, in fact, left the impression that he was pushing this new visionary concept of reforms in Congress.

The conflict between the BIR employees and Bañez has indeed little to do with IRMA. Bañez says sabotage by corrupt BIR officials is responsible for the revenue shortfall. The employees claim Bañez's management style and alleged incompetence were responsible. It has become a highly personalized conflict, at the expense of a concept worth refining.

Revenue collection during Bañez's 19 months in office plunged, aggravating the budget deficit. The continuation of the stand-off could only have worsened the revenue shortfall.

The administration badly needs increased revenue to finance its economic pump-priming to stimulate economic activity and to close the deficit that has made the markets nervous and investors uncertain over the government's fiscal management competence.

Now that Bañez has quit, can the BIR employees ensure that revenue collection will improve?

From a vegetarian of 60 years

MALOU I. Redome's Youngblood article (PDI, 8/13/02) titled "Confessions of a vegetarian," moved me to hastily pen a complementary article for High Blood. I thought: I just have to let this plucky girl know: *"Hindi ka nag-iisa."* Stick to your gutsy principles. The world will soon come around (as it has already) to seeing that we vegetarians are not weirdos. We are but trying to live our deep-seated convictions—grounded on love and compassion for all that lives, for non-violence and a desire to contribute our bit in promoting peace and harmony in a turbulent world.

HIGH BLOOD

Flerida Ruth P. Romero

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

I sympathize with what Malou is undergoing. One of a less hardy breed would have buckled down before the hostile environment of family and friends around her.

I have been a vegetarian for 60 years to her two years. The decision to be one came naturally to my mother, the late Juliana C. Pineda, my sister Irma and myself after we attended an informal discussion group of people in search for the truth.

In 1942 it was not difficult forsaking the pleasures of the table, whatever there was of it. During the Japanese Occupation, there was hardly any choice. We subsisted on lean pickings, at least in the Greater Manila area. It was not too bad in the provinces where those who had evacuated could grow vegetables and raise fowl or pigs, unless the military forces got to confiscate them.

At home, there was no resistance. My mother who had profoundly influenced and guided my spiritual growth had a predilection for vegetables. There were no half-hearted attempts. Overnight, we made the transition. No meats, seafoods, not even sauces like "*bagoong*" and "*patis*."

As I went through high school and college after the war, I tried to make my "peculiar" diet as inconspicuous as possible. This was at a time when to be a vegetarian was to be dubbed a freak. And I did not want to be the object of gossip or ridicule.

It helped that I was not a party-goer. Still, I had to attend gatherings of relatives and friends, official functions and accept invitations I could not decline.

Gradually, I formulated rules.

1. Eat before you go to parties.

2. To avoid drawing attention to an empty plate, get rice or bread. For the insistent, well-meaning hostess, oblige by helping yourself to a wee portion of the viand. Put it on the edge of the plate for discarding. It won't do to waste too much food.

3. For out-of-town engagements or outings, bring canned, ready to eat food.

4. The easiest food to order is eggs, hard-boiled or fried. Remember, good and bad cholesterol were not part of the layman's vocabulary at the time.

5. Attitude is important. Believe in your convictions that spring intuitively from deeply held principles. Let neither the gibes nor snickers behind your back affect you.

All organisms have life, divine life. There are bonds of affinity that bind us all. I could not agree more with Malou when she says that "animals, like human beings, have the right to live and enjoy every passing minute of their stay here on earth." Yes, they too have their path of evolution marked out for them. This is cut short through the acts of violence of men, either for food or the hunt. But we don't have to snuff out life to sustain our own, do we? Never mind that others argue that animals have been purposely created to pander to men's appetites.

In college, I boarded in a faculty member's cottage. The family never begrudged cooking my special food. It was decidedly less expensive and simpler to cook than their usual fare of meat or fish.

My classmates never discovered my well-guarded secret. Fifty years later at the Golden Anniversaries of UP High School Class '46 and UP Law Class '52, they learned and were amazed at this late discovery.

Someone who was in a wheelchair mumbled, "We should have followed your example 50 years ago. Now it's too late!"

Another who leaned hard on the arm of his caregiver pursued the question, "Can we still change our eating habits?"

I frankly replied, "If you're thinking of turning vegetarian now, I'm afraid it will be hard for you, unless you're determined and convinced enough of the philosophy behind it. You know, your taste buds have already been conditioned to eating flesh food."

My friends accept what they call my idiosyncracy. At the occasional social functions in the Supreme Court, my colleagues would unfailingly instruct their caterers to prepare special vegetarian food for me. Those who, seeing my visually attractive salads and gluten-steaks smothered in onions, would jab at my plate.

Times when the retired justices of the Supreme Court meet nowadays, table talk invariably veers to ailments, doctors' diagnoses and medication. I am an avid listener but can hardly contribute to the conversation. One was moved to exclaim, "For sure, Flery will outlive us all. She's so healthy!" (Knock on wood.)

Still spry for a retiree, I don't balk at traveling abroad. Happily, Geneva where I attend sessions of the ILO Administrative Tribunal as judge, is vegetarian-friendly. One can pick out *"le assiette vegetarien"* (vegetarian plate) from the menu. London is even more so.

In the United States, the pièce de résistance usually has side dishes of vegetables and potatoes. Often, I have reflected to myself, "how fortunate I am in not being a foreign vegetarian visitor in the Philippines." Why? Because the ordinary Filipino cuisine consists in sautéeing the vegetables with such "*recados*" as pork, beef, shrimps, etc. Kind hosts who try to be helpful to me suggest, "just pick out the vegetables and it will be all right." Unfortunately, it's not so.

Unlike Malou, practical jokers cannot put one over me. My sensitive palate, honed for the past 60 years, can immediately detect if I have been given chicken or beef stock in my soup or bits of invisible meat in my dish or even wine in an exotic recipe.

To one distressed friend who invited me to a native food restaurant with no unadulterated vegetables on the menu, I consoled her with, "Don't worry, I relish your *sawsawan* of tomatoes with red eggs."

Let me tell you of my lawyer-son Charlton Jules. He turned vegetarian without anybody's prodding when he was 8 years old. When he announced his "conversion" to the family, he tentatively added "...except barbecue and fried chicken." But the very next day, he retracted the exceptions and went all out for vegetarianism. He has since eschewed animal food that have had to be killed, for like Malou, he's a great animal lover.

Take note of this. Neither he nor I found our vegetarianism a stumbling block in finding suitable, congenial life partners.

Sixty years ago, I decided to so change my eating habits, convinced of its salutary implications on my spiritual, emotional, mental and physical development. I have never regretted my decision. With a philosophical attitude and a serene temperament, I have learned to rise above snide and disparaging comments. Through vegetarianism, I have come to realize the unity of life and the brotherhood of all men with lower forms of organic life. Indeed, one ultimately discovers God in the "flower in a crannied wall" and in the "leaves of grass."

Flerida Ruth P. Romero is a retired justice of the Supreme Court.

'Investing' in children

MEET Lester, Kaye, Marian, Marlon and Omar, just a few of the children who received help in the past year or so because of funds generated by the "Children's Hour," a nationwide fund-raising campaign for children's causes that was launched in 1999-2000 and was relaunched recently.

Premised on the idea of convincing employees to pledge an hour's wage, the local "Children's Hour" was able to raise almost P33 million from the contributions of over 84,000 individuals and 400 corporate donors.

As of today, over 3,000 children and youth have benefited from the projects funded by the "Children's Hour," and implemented by NGOs, church and community groups, schools and hospitals around the country. This is actually a novel idea, for instead of embarking on their own projects, the "Children's Hour" organizers decided instead to support existing groups and ongoing projects that met their criteria and priorities.

One of the children helped by the "Children's Hour" is Lester, who comes from a poor family in Makati. A Grade 2 student, he is one of the 150 gifted students of the Center for Excellence in Public Elementary Education or Centex, assisted by the Ayala Foundation and one of 27 organizations that received P28.5 million in grants for health, educational and psycho-social programs. Declaring his life's ambition to be "being President of the country someday," Lester is well on his way, chalking up a grade average that doesn't fall below A-.

* * *

THE MOST immediate beneficiaries were 10 public and private hospitals and medical centers that used a collective grant of P18.2 million from the "Children's Hour" to buy medical equipment for their pediatric wards and provide child-centered services.

Among the children whose lives were touched by the assistance given to these hospitals is Marian, 17. Her mother brought her to the PGH-Children's Protection Unit after Marian managed to escape from a stranger who found her wandering in the Luneta and then abducted her and sexually abused her.

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

Found to be mentally retarded, Marian was locked into a deep depression when she was first brought to the CPU, traumatized by the abuse. Immediately interviewed and assisted by a pediatrician and social worker on duty, Marian received medical treatment and counseling, services made possible by funding from the "Children's Hour" that supports treatment and legal assistance for physically and sexually abused children. Now deemed more mentally stable, she is expected to be able to attend a special school soon.

Aside from Marian, street children in Makati, Quezon City, Cebu City, Iloilo and Manila were given education, shelter, skills development programs and psychological and health services by the Laura Vicuna Foundation, Tuloy sa Don Bosco, Tulay ng Kabataan Foundation Inc., Chameleon Association Inc., Mobile School Program of Cebu City, Makabata Foundation Inc., Hope Worldwide, and Tahanan Outreach Projects and Services Inc. Some P3 million was made available to directly help 307 children and reach out to more than 7,500 children.

Kaye, 18, was once a street child who, thanks to a referral from Don Bosco's parish priest, is now preparing for a future as a worker and productive citizen. She plans to take part in an improved Bag-making Technology Course at Don Bosco that will use equipment and materials similar to those used in medium-scale enterprises. Also, through funds from the "Children's Hour," more trainers will be hired, meaning more effective training to reach more trainees. Right now, Kaye is learning sewing, working on flatbed and cylinder bed sewing machines, producing canvas and travel bags as well as tooled articles like coin purses, address books, calling card holder and billfolds. Later, she will undergo on-the-job training in a factory for three to six months where she could be absorbed as a permanent employee.

* * *

THE "CHILDREN'S HOUR" also helped fund programs for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, as well as services for disabled children by providing over P7 million in assistance.

In Mindanao, the Notre Dame Business Resource Center used the fund to deliver primary health care to two health centers of tribal families.

In Tabang Mindanaw II, three church partners offered a psycho-social program to help children cope with the cruelties of the war. The International Deaf Association of the Philippines Inc. gave hearing-impaired children access to special education.

Marlon, 13, a sugar cane worker, is one of the leaders of Samahan ng mga Batang Manggagawa who participated in the five-day Theater Arts Training in Malungon, Sarangani held by the Kamalayan Foundation. Like his peers, he has learned new skills. But more importantly, the training has helped him become more aware of his and other children's rights. He is one of the 100 children whose educational expenses the "Children's Hour" covers.

Omar, a 9-year-old residing in the Miramar evacuation center, is one of the 104 children who participated in the activities conducted by Tabang Mindanaw. A psycho-social team works with him and other children living in the evacuation centers in Magsaysay, Making and Miramar to help them cope with the emotional and psycho-social impact of armed conflict.

These are the children that the "Children's Hour" has helped, and they, along with thousands of other children, could still be helped by the simple act of pledging an hour's wage on their behalf. Your individual donation may not amount to much, but isn't the return on investment terrific?

Chinese women making inroads in politics

BEIJING—Ask about politically powerful women in China and the average person may recall the infamous empress dowager Cixi, who helped fell the crumbling Qing Dynasty from within by squandering money and shunning the West.

Those with a shorter historical memory are likely to remember Chairman Mao Zedong's third wife, Jiang Qing, nicknamed the "white-boned demon" and accused of fanning the flames of the Cultural Revolution in the '60s and '70s. The point is, few examples pop up and even fewer are positive.

In part, analysts say, that reflects a reality: not many women have held positions of power in China. They also say it reflects the misogyny that permeates Chinese society and pins a bad image on powerful women, deserved or not.

But the groundwork is being laid for a gradual but significant change as China's senior leaders wrap up secretive meetings at the seaside resort of Beidaihe and put the finishing touches to an impending leadership transition, analysts say.

At a Communist Party Congress expected in the coming months, at least one-third of the seats in the 21-member Politburo, the party's command center, and 139-member Central Committee could change hands in the biggest reshuffle since Mao died in 1976. Most jobs will pass, as usual, from one man to another. But two seasoned women politicians—state councilor Wu Yi and education minister Chen Zhili—are poised to break the glass ceiling and take full seats in the Politburo, analysts say. And some say the charismatic Wu has an outside chance for a seat on the Politburo Standing Committee, the inner sanctum of the party currently comprised of seven men.

"I think it's a breakthrough," said Christina Gilmartin, an expert on women in Chinese politics at Northeastern University in Boston. "Since Jiang Qing, things have been very difficult for women at a top level."

The Communist Party has championed women as a key economic force and empowered Chinese women in ways never known before, giving them rights to hold land and seek divorce. Under Mao, quotas helped women gain positions of power in communes and local party branches and the communist ideal of "women holding up half the sky" helped suppress sexism.

NEWS ANALYSIS

John Ruwitch

But after Mao's death, Jiang Qing was purged and jailed and China experienced a backlash against women in politics. Some even held the bespectacled ex-actress up as an example of why women should be kept out of power.

Only three women have ever been full Politburo members, all in the Mao era and all with special family connections: Jiang, Zhou's wife Deng, and Ye Qun, the wife of Lin Biao, Mao's one-time designated heir and defense minister.

Now, Wu is China's most senior woman leader, but as an alternate member of the Politburo she can only attend meetings and has no vote. One rung down on the political ladder, the Central Committee has only seven women members, and a mere 17 of its 142 alternates are female.

Analysts see this party congress as a turning point.

"Probably, the 16th Party Congress will break the record in terms of women's representation in the Central Committee and the Politburo," said Cheng Li, an expert on China's leadership at Hamilton College in New York. Still, he estimates their ranks will rise by only about one to 3 percent.

The grey-haired Wu has done much to help women shed the negative image in politics, Gilmartin said.

"She's really done a very good job, I think, of combating the backlash against Jiang Qing that pervaded a lot of the 1980s and early '90s," Gilmartin said. "She's very professional, she seems to have the qualifications to do her job." Premier Zhu Rongji recently named Wu to coordinate the implementation of China's World Trade Organization commitments, one of the most important economic tasks facing the country, a Western diplomat said.

The job could be a stepping stone for a vice premiership in the new government lineup early next year.

Some China hands say the unmarried Wu, 63, is a candidate for a "helicopter" promotion straight into the Politburo Standing Committee, thanks not least to backing from her long-time ally, party chief Jiang Zemin.

Even if women don't make the Politburo, they are advancing steadily at the grass-roots political level, analysts say.

Liu Bohong, deputy head of the Women's Studies Institute at the All-China Women's Federation, said in a recent paper there were now some 500 women mayors or vice mayors. That was helped by an informal quota promoted by the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF), a party-sponsored group that promotes women's rights and development, requiring women to be represented in every government and party body.

"Now, as governments reform, there must be one woman, at least one. If there's two, that's fine, three, that's fine, too, but at the very least there must be one," said Gu Xiulian, deputy director of the ACWF, a Central Committee member and former chemical industry minister.

More women are entering city governments than at any other level, but still make up only about 10 percent of city hall positions and the vast majority are vice mayors, not mayors.

"There's a glass ceiling. They don't want women in the No. 1 position," said Wang Zheng, a US-based specialist on Chinese women. "It's structural. It's a male-centered culture." The only women who rise to power are those who play by men's rules, and they tend to play more conservatively, she said.

"There's a shared understanding around here that just because there's a woman, that doesn't mean she will represent women's interests," said Wang. "The appearance may be that of a woman, but everything she does is like a man." While there have been inroads, Wang argues that China needs deeper reform, or women will remain in less powerful posts.

"If the political system doesn't change, I don't see any way for women to break in," she said. ***Reuters***

Points to ponder in a medical malpractice bill

I WISH to give the following additional arguments against the proposed medical malpractice bill as a corollary to the comments of Dr. Rafael Castillo in his column, titled "Medical law will add to rising medical cost." (Science/Health, 8/18/02)

How big is the medical malpractice problem? There are 585 docketed cases with 176 malpractice or gross negligence cases. We have 27,000 practicing doctors attending to an average of 10 cases per day. Therefore, about 1 in 3.68 million attended patients is the presumed malpractice incidence, a mere 0.000027 percent.

The proposed malpractice bill has too many loopholes and has significant implications that have to be thoroughly evaluated by our lawmakers.

1. The bill is biased. Why is the bill selective against the medical profession, thereby violating the "equal protection clause" of the Constitution? This bias is most unfair since the likelihood of doctor's error is very small, a mere 0.000027 percent.

2. It is redundant. Article 250 of the Revised Penal Code and the Professional Regulation Commission Board of Medicine are existing guardians against medical malpractice.

3. "Defensive medicine" will prevail. Exhaustive diagnostic procedures and frequent specialty referrals, just to abide by a foreign designed algorithm, will be performed.

4. Personal humanitarian *bayanihan* spirit will be a thing of the past. Health providers will then fear doing volunteer and charity missions.

5. Patient-doctor mutual trust will be compromised. As in health insurance-dictated practice, the patient will be numbered business clients or a subject-commodity who can be shuttled from one clinic to another as doctors become selective, avoiding those who might sue.

6. Common perception versus medical expert opinion is arbitrary. Layman's opinion will challenge a medical expert's evaluation. Which should be given more weight?

7. Breach of duty means deviation from "standard practice." "Breach of duty" exists if the health care is not what a "reasonably competent" health professional would have done in a similar situation. However, the standards of medical practice, although applicable to **most** patients, are not applicable to **all** patients. It may also differ from one country to another.

8. The government's thrust to provide health service in deprived areas will suffer. Inequality limits quality standard care. "State of the art" facilities are not equally available or accessible nationwide. Hence, health providers will not relocate in deprived areas due to the fear of lawsuits.

Let it not be that the mistakes of a few will malign the greater number of competent medical professionals willing to serve God, country and fellowmen.

—PROF. RAMON F. ABARQUEZ JR., MD, EFACC, FPCC, FPCP, emeritus professor, University of the Philippines College of Medicine and past president, Philippine College of Physicians and Philippine Heart Association

Does age matter in teaching English?

AFTER HAVING spent more than half of my life in a country I cannot call home, I have returned to the Philippines to try my luck at finding a job.

I have attended enough interviews and even performed a "demonstration" class to a captive audience of fellow teachers. I have also used up my supply of passport photos, having to part with one or two every time I attend an interview. (And unfortunately these photos are never returned.) But has this gotten me a job? No, otherwise I wouldn't be writing this letter.

I left the Philippines when I was 16, but that was not of my own choosing. Finally after having gone through an educational system that was literally completely foreign to me and having to change the way I spelled common English words, I unfortunately fell in love, got married and became an English teacher. I have spent the past 15 years teaching native speakers how to speak their language and I cannot even get a teaching job in my own country. I am not surprised that one in five Filipinos want to leave, but I want to stay. However, I cannot stay if I do not have a job that would support my son and myself. And contrary to the notion commonly held by most, not everyone who works overseas and lives there is rich. I am not rich; otherwise I would not be desperately looking for a job.

The problem I seem to face is that I am over 35 years old. Most of the job advertisements require people who are below that age. Does that mean that most employers consider people over the age of 35 incapable of completing tasks? If that is the case, then the employers, who must be over 35, should be sacked as well. Age is not a deterrent to one's productiveness. I am as fit as the teenagers I teach and definitely a quick thinker than they are.

If it is the fact that I speak English like an educated native speaker without a Filipino accent and that in itself is threatening to some, I cannot apologize for that. It is what I do for a living. I have put up with racism even from the students that I taught overseas, but do I have to put up with ageism and sexism in my own country? Neither a person's waistline nor their height should prevent them from getting a job for which they are qualified.

I want to come home now and stay, but attitudes of employers will not allow that to happen. I am doomed to spend the rest of my life in a country that treats me like a foreigner and torments me for being different.

I love the Philippines, not only because it is indeed the land of my birth, but because of the people (excluding all those taxi drivers who try to cheat me). There are a lot more people here who are genuinely decent. So please, let me stay. Employers out there should not discriminate due to an applicant's age.

—ELSIE VERONICA FLOR, ronnieflor@hotmail.com

LETTERS

Tension on the MRT

WE are writing to complain about the bad experience we had while riding the Metro Rail Transit.

The MRT has become a better alternative to buses and jeeps for commuters who travel on Edsa. But despite all the precautions commuters take, their lives are put in danger by the reckless and inconsiderate actions of one bank.

The date was July 17, 2002. We took the MRT at the Quezon Avenue station going to Makati. It was around 12:30 p.m. and the coach was quite full. At the Boni station, three armed men from the Philippine National Bank entered our coach. All the people around us were looking at each other, the women holding on to their children tightly and you could see the anxiety and tension mirrored on their faces. These armed men were carrying a small sack of money with a PNB Aurora branch tag displayed. It was only when they got off at the Buendia station that the people were able to breathe freely again.

The PNB is a big bank and it must have armored vans for moving the bank's transactions. By using the MRT to deliver its stuff, it was unnecessarily endangering the lives of passengers and inviting criminal attention. Doesn't that violate bank regulations?

We hope that the bank officials concerned will ensure that this incident will not be repeated, and that the MRT management will take more aggressive action to protect commuters in matters like this.

—MARY GRACE CASTRO, MICHELLE ANNE LIM, Miriam Women's Society, Miriam College Foundation Inc., Loyola Heights, Quezon City

From Utrecht to Cuba

GREETINGS from Saudi Arabia. I just heard from the ANC news that Joma Sison and top officials of the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front who are exiled in the Netherlands are retiring. Why this sudden decision? Perhaps because of the effect of the freezing of their funds?

Sison claims that as political refugees, he and his wife receive a stipend from the Ducth government. This is one way of saying that they don't need the proceeds of the revolutionary taxes their armed wing extort from hapless people back in the Philippines. Hence there's no truth to the rumor of fat bank accounts in the Netherlands.

Okay, granting that Sison et al., retire, I suggest that they retire to Cuba to be with the true revolutionary himself—Fidel Castro. While in retirement they can help Castro's peasants harvest sugar canes. Why enjoy the democratic/capitalistic government of the Netherlands, the likes of which they abhor? They should be called "plastic revolutionaries."

—NAPOLEON SERRANO, npserrano@hotmail.com

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

THIS undated handout released August 20 by CNN shows a video grab from tapes recovered in Afghanistan last year of previously unseen footage of terror-mastermind Osama bin Laden (right) speaking with right-hand man and inspirational ally Ayman al-Zawahiri. AFP

Tape shows Bin Laden plotting jihad

HONG KONG—Just weeks before terrorists bombed the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, Osama bin Laden warned of a mission that would "result in killing Americans and getting rid of them," CNN reported Tuesday.

CNN's second report on tapes it obtained from an al-Qaida archive in Afghanistan also quoted Bin Laden as declaring in May 1998 that various Islamic groups were joining forces to launch a "jihad against the crusaders and Jews."

The network's first report on the tapes, aired Monday, showed grisly images of dogs being killed with poisonous gas and al-Qaida operatives conducting mock ambushes and kidnappings. US officials said the footage did not reveal any unexpected capabilities by the group accused of carrying out the Sept. 11 attacks.

On Tuesday morning in Asia, CNN aired portions of a tape it obtained of a May 26, 1998 news conference, restricted to select Pakistani journalists and one Chinese writer, during which Bin Laden declared war on the West and Israel.

"By God's grace, we have formed with many other Islamic groups and organizations in the Islamic world a front called the International Islamic Front to do jihad against the crusaders and Jews," Bin Laden was heard saying through an interpreter.

At another point in the broadcast, monitored in Hong Kong, Bin Laden hinted at targeting Americans, just weeks before the nearly simultaneous embassy attacks on Aug. 7, 1998, in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, which killed 231 people, including 12 Americans, and wounded 5,000.

"And by God's grace, the men reacted to this call and they are going on this path, and they are doing a good job," Bin Laden said. "By God's will, their actions are going to have a successful result in killing Americans and getting rid of them."

Washington blames al-Qaida for the embassy bombings.

Bin Laden, surrounded by armed men, appeared relaxed in the video, but in later shots filmed outside, he was seen flinching as he heard what CNN described as a rocket-propelled grenade go off nearby.

President Bush, vacationing at his Texas ranch, has been fully briefed on the tapes, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said.

"This is a serious reminder of the type of enemy we're up against and the risks the world faces from people who would use weapons to bring harm to innocents," Fleischer said.

Among the images repeatedly shown by CNN on Monday was footage of three dogs apparently being subjected to chemical weapons testing.

Gordon Johndroe, spokesperson for the White House's Office of Homeland Security, said the videos support Washington's view that al-Qaida leaders "would use chemical weapons if they're able to obtain them."

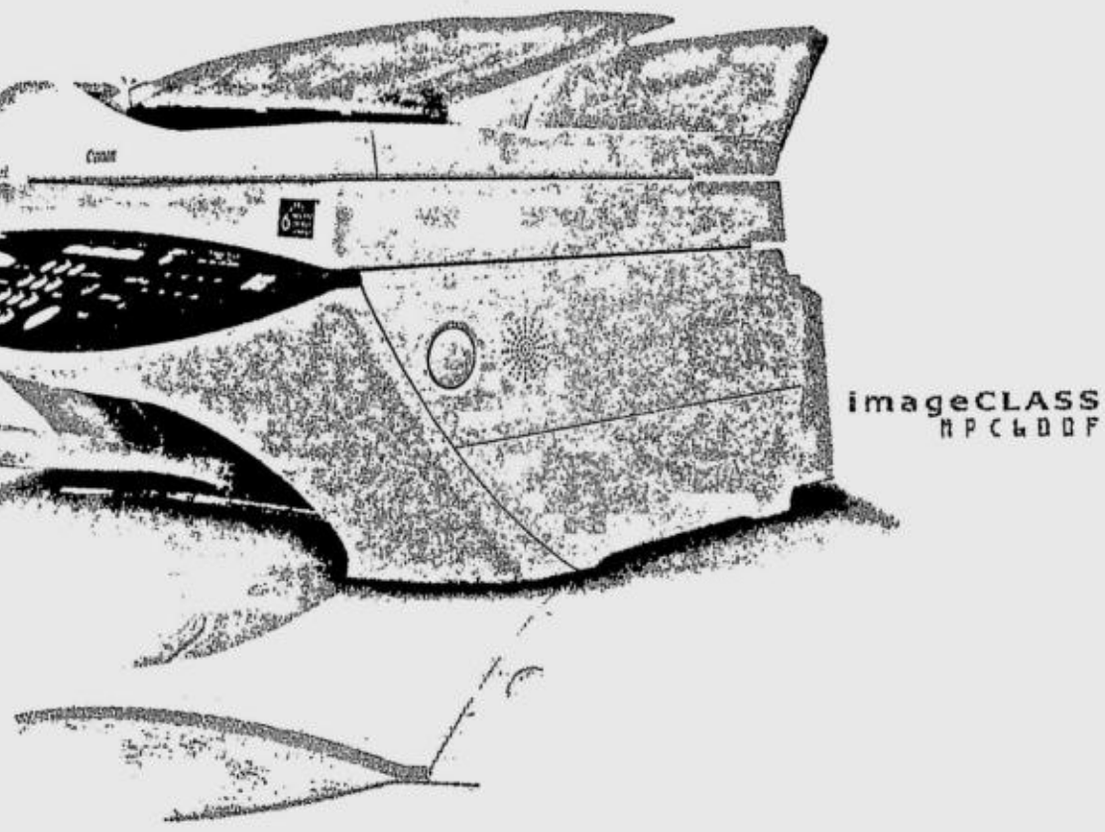
But there was no credible information al-Qaida had been successful in getting weapons of mass destruction, he said.

Most of the tapes appeared to have been made before Sept. 11, although some aired Monday show television coverage of the attacks in New York and Washington.

CNN spokesperson Christa Robinson said the network had shared the videos "with the appropriate authorities, because of our concern for the safety of people around the world."

Robinson declined to specify which authorities were getting the tapes, but officials said the US government may have already recovered other copies of some of the tapes on its own.

Fleischer said government officials will be reviewing CNN's tapes for any useful intelligence information. *AP*



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MOM TOLD YOU TO EAT ALL THAT VEGGIE? AP

Brenna Dinkel, 7, is shown with a giant cabbage on Aug. 15, on her grandfather, Don Dinkel's, farm near Wasilla, Alaska. The Dinkel family is well known for growing cabbages that win at the Alaska State Fair.

Russian Army chopper falls in Chechnya; 105 killed

MOSCOW—Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov on Tuesday rushed to the scene of a Russian military helicopter crash in Chechnya as the death toll from the debacle climbed to 105, one of the biggest losses in the 35-month war.

Chechen rebels said they shot down the Mi-26 transport helicopter on Monday, a claim rejected by Russian officials who cited engine trouble as a possible cause.

ITAR-TASS quoted military sources as saying 17 of the 33 soldiers rescued from the flaming wreckage of the Mi-26 chopper were recovering in hospital in serious condition.

Ivanov and Prosecutor General Vladimir Ustinov flew out of Moscow for a rare visit to Chechnya, underscoring the shock triggered by the incident on Russia's military.

Top army officials say they are still refusing to believe Chechen claims and suspect that the Mi-26 helicopter—the world's largest—crashed into a minefield on the rebel capital Grozny's outskirts due to engine trouble.

However ITAR-TASS cited "several eyewitnesses" within the military Tuesday as saying that they saw the chopper being hit by what looked like either a small missile or heavy machinegun fire.

Army officials said Tuesday that rescuers had so far recovered 23 bodies from the smoldering wreckage.

President Vladimir Putin, who launched the Chechen offensive in October 1999 while he was prime minister, called the incident a "catastrophe" and ordered a full-scale inquiry into the loss of the Mi-26.

Rebel spokesperson Mayarbek Vachagayev said that the rebels were claiming responsibility for the attack, saying that the helicopter was shot down by an anti-aircraft missile.

"Over a hundred passengers were killed, including some dozen officers," Vachagayev said, adding that the attack had been planned by a crack group of fighters code-named "Jihad."

He added on Moscow Echo radio Tuesday "that this attack in no way can be described as terrorism because we are waging a war."

"Until the Russians are prepared to lead peace negotiations, these military actions will continue," Vachagayev warned.

The Russian-made Mi-26, first built in 1977, is used mainly for heavy transport and can carry up to 20 tons of cargo and more than 100 equipped troops and armored vehicles.

The incident occurred as Russia was sending reinforcements into Chechnya from its main North Caucasus base of Mozdok, in North Ossetia.

Russian troops stormed into Chechnya in October 1999 in what Moscow termed an anti-terrorist operation that has since unraveled into a brutal guerrilla war with daily casualties on both sides. *AFP*

MORE THAN ENOUGH TO FILL THE POTS AP

Vietnamese women clean bowls in their flooded pottery shop at Bat Trang, a village famous for making pottery, on the outskirts of Hanoi on Tuesday August 20. Flash floods killed at least 26 people in several provinces in northern Vietnam.

Nigeria woman sentenced to death by stoning loses appeal in court

FUNTUA, Nigeria—A Nigerian Islamic court on Monday threw out an appeal by a young woman sentenced to be stoned to death for bearing a child out of wedlock and ordered her to be executed once her child is weaned.

To cries of "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) from the public galleries, the judge ordered 30-year-old Amina Lawal to be taken to a public place, buried up to her neck and put to death by stoning.

The judgement was a slap in the face for a coalition of lawyers, activists and federal officials who had chosen the case to challenge the reintroduction of the strict Islamic legal code, or sharia, in the north of the country.

Amina's legal team announced an immediate appeal. If they fail, their client could become the first Nigerian to be stoned to death since 12 northern states reintroduced sharia.

Her team of Abuja-based lawyers and rights campaigners had argued that her conviction was unfair, that her confession had been retracted and that she had never understood the case against her.

But a four-judge panel meeting at the upper sharia court in Funtua, 300 km north of Abuja, dismissed their arguments.

"We uphold your conviction of death by stoning as prescribed by the sharia. This judgement will be carried out as soon as your baby is weaned," the lead judge told Lawal, who sat before the bench cradling her eight-month-old daughter.

A cry of "Allahu Akbar" resounded around the packed courtroom as Lawal, a shy and slight village woman dressed in a bright red dress and deep purple open-faced veil, burst into tears.

At an earlier hearing in January during which she was not represented, Lawal told reporters she was confident that she would be cleared now that she had high-powered lawyers behind her.

"I feel bad, I'm not happy at all. We thought they were going to discharge her," said Clara Obazele, a spokesperson for Women's Affairs Minister Aisha Ismail. "We're going to appeal the judgement." Human rights groups immediately denounced the ruling.

"The practice of stoning to death is the ultimate form of torture or cruel, inhumane and degrading punishment," said Amnesty International.

"Nigeria just joined the ranks of the worst dictatorships with this decision," said Mouloud Aounit, president of France's Movement Against Racism and For Friendship Between People.

Italian parliament members also raised their voices. Greens MP Paolo Cento said the verdict "requires an immediate response on the part of international institutions." *AFP*

20 Indian soldiers killed in ambush

GUWAHATI, India—At least 20 Indian paramilitary soldiers were killed and four critically wounded Tuesday when tribal militants ambushed a patrol in the northeastern state of Tripura, a police spokesperson said.

The soldiers from the Tripura State Rifles were ambushed at Amarendra Nagar, 60 km southeast of the state's provincial capital Agartala, at about 9:00 am.

The patrol was hit by suspected separatist militants belonging to the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), the police spokesperson said.

"The patrol vehicle was on its way to Agartala carrying some sick soldiers when a big group of NLFT militants triggered grenade blasts and opened fire with automatic weapons, killing 19 on the spot," the spokesperson said by telephone from Agartala.

One of the wounded soldiers later died in hospital, he said.

"Four soldiers were shifted to hospitals with multiple injuries and their condition is stated to be very serious," he said.

The militants were hiding on a hilltop and were in good position to carry out the attack, the official said.

After the ambush, the rebels fled the area, taking with them a large quantity of arms, including self loading rifles and light machine guns, he said.

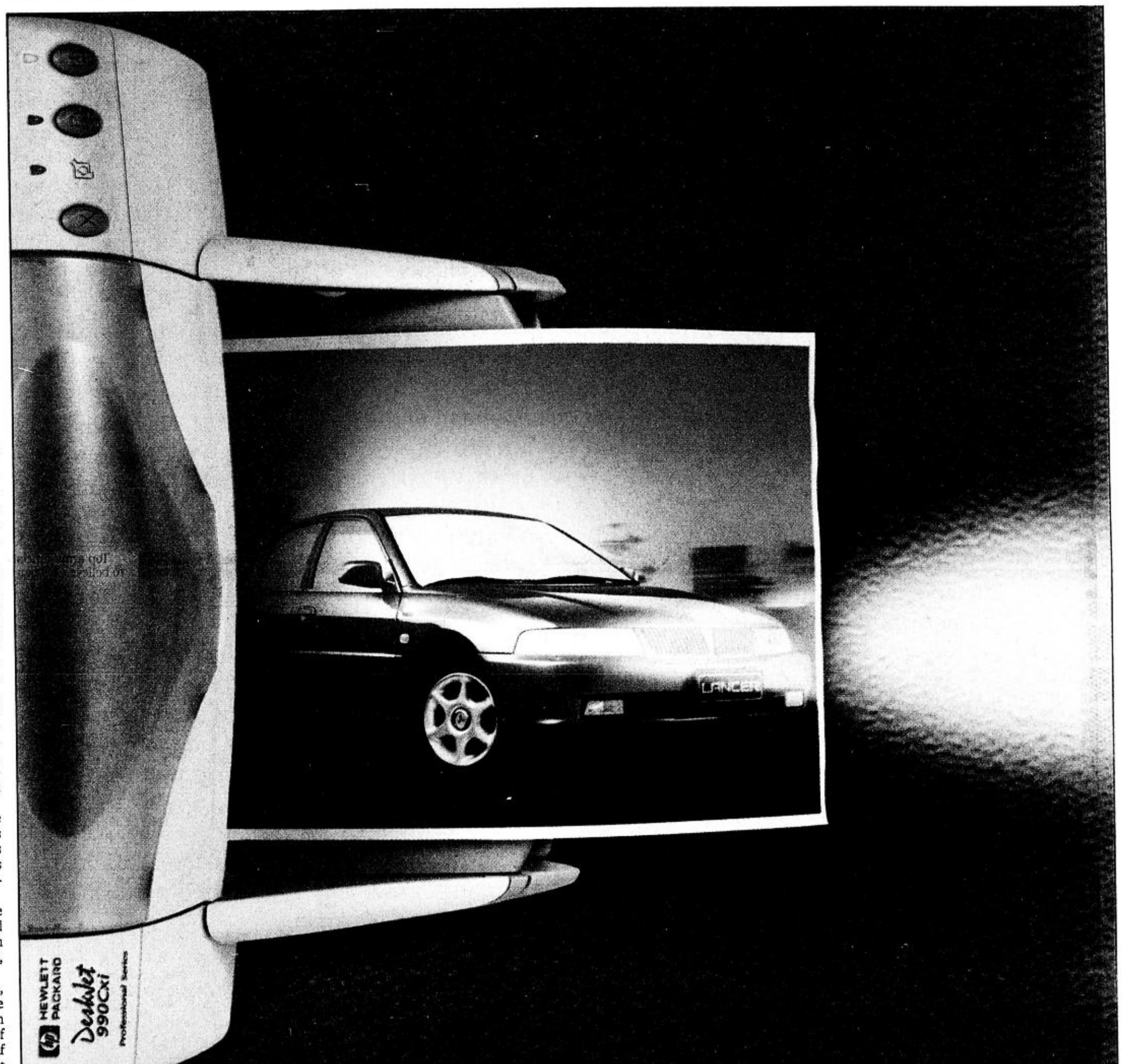
It is the biggest attack on security forces in Tripura since the outbreak of insurgency two decades ago, the official added.

More than 10,000 people have lost their lives to insurgency in the state.

The NLFT is fighting for an independent tribal homeland in Tripura, using bases in adjoining Bangladesh to carry out their hit-and-run guerrilla strikes on federal soldiers.

Army, police and paramilitary soldiers have launched a massive hunt in the area to catch the rebels.

"It would be very difficult to track down the rebels and the chances of them escaping to their hideouts in Bangladesh seem probable, with the border just a few kilometers away from the site of the attack," a senior police official said, requesting anonymity. *AFP*



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An urgent appeal to Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, from the concerned sectors of the Local Horseracing Industry

Dear Madame President:

The undersigned sectors, representative of the country's largest block of direct industry participants and stakeholders, would like to issue a most urgent appeal to Your Excellency for the re-appointment of MR. ANDREW A. SANCHEZ as chairman of the Philippine Racing Commission (PHILRACOM).

This humble request is an emphatic reiteration of our earlier petition for Chairman Sanchez' continuing service to the local horseracing industry, a sentiment that finds unanimous support from all the sectors who recognize his invaluable contribution to the continued growth of our billion-peso industry.

In his first year at the helm of the industry's principal regulatory agency, Chairman Sanchez was able to successfully implement numerous programs and policy reforms that have resulted in many positive changes in the overall conduct of local horseracing, thereby preserving its stature as one of the major revenue contributors to the National Government.

More than providing effective and competent leadership, Chairman Sanchez stands as a strong unifying force to the various sectors of the industry, which in the past has often been wrought with dissension and conflicting parochial interests. Chairman Sanchez' unselfish dedication to promote the welfare and development of the whole industry has provided much needed stability to its continuing and vibrant growth. We believe that the industry could ill-afford to become fragmented anew at this critical juncture of its development.

We also request that the sectoral representatives endorsed by the various sectors to the PHILRACOM BOARD as provided by law and tradition be respected so that they could effectively carry out the clear mandate of the PHILRACOM, in consonance with the programs of the Administration.

We understand that there are certain lobby groups and powerful individuals that have expressed a keen interest to influence the decision of Your Excellency in making the choice of the PHILRACOM Chairman. We appeal to Your Excellency to seriously ponder the enormous repercussions of any decision on the appointment to such a critical position that would imperil the gains made over the past years.

We have great faith in the Administration's high regard for public interest and welfare and we feel that Your Excellency would be properly guided by established performance and credibility in your choice for the post of PHILRACOM Chairman.

Rest assured of our continued support for your administration in uplifting the lives of the Filipinos and in forging a strong, unified and progressive republic.

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Israel pulls out troops, eases tensions

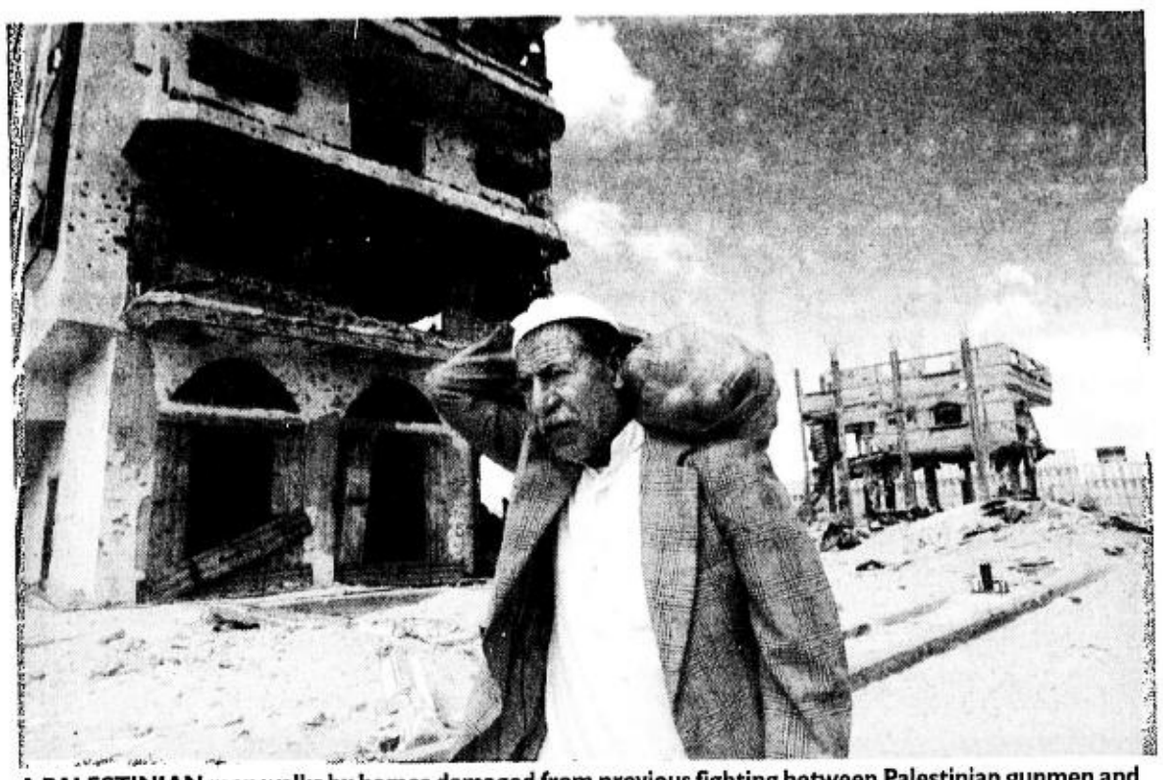
BETHLEHEM, West Bank—Israel pulled its troops out of Bethlehem and several other areas in the southern West Bank Monday night as part of a new security deal with the Palestinians marking the first genuine easing of tensions in months in the nearly two-year conflict.

The withdrawal, which started despite sharp clashes during the afternoon in the northern West Bank in which a Palestinian teenager was shot dead and another man was critically wounded, was matched by the arrival of scores of Palestinian police who are now supposed to crack down on Palestinian militants.

It also came after a Palestinian source said one of the most infamous Palestinian guerrillas and a leading international terror figure in the 1970s and 1980s, Abu Nidal, had been found shot dead in his Baghdad home.

An Israeli army spokesperson and public radio confirmed the troops had pulled out of Bethlehem and the nearby areas of Beit Sahur, Beit Jala, and the Dheisheh refugee camp and that curfews imposed by the army had been lifted and Palestinian police were preparing to take over.

"The Israeli army withdrew from Bethlehem and has redeployed around the town. This redeployment aims to allow the Palestinians to act against terrorism and restore a normal life to the population," the army spokesperson said in a statement. The army earlier said the soldiers would remain in positions around the town or at nearby roadblocks.



A PALESTINIAN man walks by homes damaged from previous fighting between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers near the Jewish settlement of Navi Deklim August 19 in the Khan Younis refugee camp, Gaza Strip. GETTY IMAGES

Palestinian officials said that about 100 Palestinian police had arrived in a convoy of about a dozen jeeps from nearby Jericho, the only main West Bank town not reoccupied since Israel launched a new drive against Palestinian militants following a spate of suicide attacks two months ago.

They deployed around the headquarters of Bethlehem's governor, where officials from Palestinian security services, including West Bank security chief Haj Ismail, were meeting over the withdrawal plan, the sources said.

The plan for the phased withdrawal, dubbed "Gaza First", was thrashed out during talks on Sunday night between Israeli Defence Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer and Palestinian interior minister Abdel Razaq al-Yahya.

It is seen as the first real test of cooperation in months between Israel and the Palestinian Authority and could restart political negotiations after 23-months of bitter conflict which has claimed more than 2,440 lives.

Under the arrangement, Israeli troops are expected to move back to the positions they occupied in the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem area before the intifada erupted in September 2000. Palestinian forces are then to take over security responsibilities from the Israelis and prevent Palestinian militants from attacking Israel.

Ben Eliezer described the plan as a confidence-building move that could open the way for future political and security talks. "The steps are essential as a starting point for the future political and security process," he said in a statement. *AFP*

Elbe surges northwards; Danube peaks

BERLIN—The surging river Elbe pressed northward Monday, leaving a trail of destruction and more victims in Germany while defenses in Hungary appeared to spare historic Budapest from the worst flooding in central Europe in human memory.

The death toll in Germany jumped to 19 as more drowned bodies were recovered from floodwaters that have destroyed scores of buildings, displaced hundreds of thousands and caused tens of billions of euros in damage.

In Hungary, the swollen Danube peaked at record levels in Budapest, but hastily erected dams withstood the brunt of the flooding, giving residents and officials a tentative reprieve.

But more than 20,000 firefighters, soldiers and volunteers, who had worked around the clock to reinforce defenses in northern and central Hungary remained on alert, after the Danube burst its banks last week in Germany, Austria and Slovakia.

Storms brought new floods to villages near the western Austrian city of Salzburg, less than a week after severe flooding from the Danube and Salzach rivers shattered livelihoods across the country. *AFP*

N. Korea's Kim opens second visit to Russia

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia—North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il early Tuesday launched his unofficial visit to Russia's Pacific far east, where he may hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin later this week.

Kim's armored train made a brief stop in the border station of Khasan, then went on to Russia's far-eastern city of Komsomolsk-on-Amur, where the North Korean leader is expected to tour local air force and navy factories.

The reclusive Kim could also meet Putin in the port of Vladivostok on Friday, though the Kremlin has so far declined to confirm the meeting and no official details of Kim's visit have been revealed.

In Vladivostok, Kim is also due to visit the Far-Eastern University, a children's center and one of the Russian Pacific Fleet's ships, officials said.

Kim was accompanied by several officials, including the army chief of general staff Kim Yong Chung, according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Other officials included First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok Ju and Minister of Railways Kim Yong Sam, the report said.

Relations between Russia and North Korea faltered after the collapse of the Soviet Union. But the former allies have signed a series of new accords to put ties back on track, at Putin's initiative aimed at expanding Moscow's influence in Asia.

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Il waves to officials at the Russian border railway station station of Khasan, Tuesday, Aug. 20. Kim Jong Il crossed the border into Russia early Tuesday for his second visit in two summers. AP

According to the Russian president's representative in Pacific Russia, Kim "is coming to acquaint himself with the situation in Russia's far east, wanting to learn how economics work in the region."

"Lately North Korea has been very interested in the Russian far east as an economic partner. This allows Russia to pursue a more aggressive and dynamic policy in developing its international ties," Konstantin Pulikovsky said. *AFP*

Zimbabwe continues to nab white farmers

HARARE—Dozens of white farmers appeared in courts across Zimbabwe on Tuesday as police continued making arrests, bringing to 193 the number charged with defying an order to leave their homes under President Robert Mugabe's contentious land reforms.

The courts, mainly in rural districts, handed down widely varying rulings, with some judges telling farmers to return home and others giving them only one day to clear out, said David Connolly, chairman of the farm lobby, Justice for Agriculture (Jag).

Bail payments have varied between 5,000 and 10,000 Zimbabwe dollars ($90 and $180), JAG officials said.

Neither police nor farming groups could say how many of the arrested farmers had received court hearings, but Jag officials said most of them appeared to have been granted bail and remanded out of custody.

About 2,900 farmers were under an August 8 deadline to leave their homes, but about two-thirds of the farmers ignored the order.

Police began arresting farmers for ignoring eviction notices last Thursday, leaving many to spend the weekend in jail.

The government has maintained that white farmers who own only one farm would be entitled to remain on their land.

But Jag has protested that the government has flouted its own acquisition criteria by giving notice to more than 1,000 farmers who own only one farm.

Analysts said the order affects far more people than just the white farmers, because most of their workers and their workers' families live on the farms.

The government rarely mentions the plight of the farm workers in its land reform program, although Jag estimates the eviction order could leave as many as 1.5 million people homeless and jobless.

The disruption comes as Zimbabwe is suffering a 1.8 million tonne shortfall of basic grains, leaving an estimated six million people, or roughly half the population, facing famine before the next major harvest in March 2003.

Supporters of Mugabe's ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front party and veterans began occupying white farms in 2000 sparking an international outcry.

That campaign has been heavily tied to political violence targeting the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, which Mugabe claims is funded by whites. *AFP*

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

FISHERMEN hope to capture fish outside of the cages and pens of the polluted Laguna de Bay.

ERIC ARAZAS

'Lumad' armed to fight NPA

MATI, Davao Oriental—The government has "mobilized and armed" the Mandaya natives in Davao Oriental to help in the fight against communist rebels.

A government official based in Baganga town, who requested not to be identified, said the military and police have provided firearms to the *lumad*.

Early last year, the Mandaya *lumad* of Davao Oriental have declared a *pangayao* or tribal war against the New People's Army. The anti-NPA natives said in an earlier interview with the INQUIRER that the military, police and the provincial government provided them with firearms.

The *lumad* warriors claimed to have killed at least 15 NPA rebels in Baganga alone. But residents of neighboring Boston town, where many civilians suspected to be NPA rebels were killed by the *lumad* warriors, had protested the municipal government's plan of providing "more firearms" to the anti-NPA natives. They said the anti-NPA natives have become "bandits."

"That is why the people are calling on the provincial government, military and police to confiscate all the firearms they gave to these people because these armed anti-NPA natives are terrorizing our place and the neighboring towns," Boston town Councilor Marcial Plaza said.

Supt. Catalino Cuy, provincial police chief, admitted that the Mandaya *lumad* were being mobilized to fight the rebels.

"But that was the initiative of the natives because they could no longer bear the atrocities of the rebels," Cuy said.

"Lately the Mandaya tribal leaders in the province asked me to provide them more firearms, but I told them that we don't have enough stock of firearms. But they already have their own. As far as I know, they are capable of mass producing home-made shotguns," Cuy added.

Lawyer Alejandro Aquino, *dangyaan* or adviser of the natives, also admitted that the military has provided the Mandaya *lumad* high-powered firearms.

"But I am not favorable to the idea of sending the natives to the war fronts because fighting the insurgency is not their job," Aquino said.

On Sunday dawn, three children were killed while several others were wounded when government soldiers raided NPA rebels who slept over a civilian community in Baganga town.

Yesterday dawn, suspected NPA rebels burned a Davao City-bound passenger in Barangay Pintatagan, Banaybanay town.

Cuy said about 20 NPA rebels led by Aiken Olasiman set on fire a bus owned by Bachelor Express.

He said the incident was "expected" because the bus firm failed to pay "revolutionary tax."

Last month, suspected NPA rebels also torched a passenger bus owned by LCI.

But Diomabok Kadyawan, spokesperson of the NPA based in the province, denied that his group was behind the series of bus burning incidents in the province." We will not do that because in the first place, we are not bandits," Kadyawan said. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Quezon awardees

LUCENA CITY—Catholic Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, a native of Lucban, Quezon and who is now assigned in the Diocese of Jaro, Iloilo, led this year's recipients of the "Quezon Medalya ng Karangalan" given on Monday. President Macapagal-Arroyo and Quezon Gov. Wilfrido Enverga led the ceremonies at the Quezon Convention Center at the back of the provincial capitol building. The other awardees are Department of Health Secretary Manuel Eusebio Millar Dayrit, public health management; Judge Proceso de Gala, government service; Benito Brizuela, printing; Dennis Abcede, architecture; Salvii Casino, merchandising promotion and publicity; Richard Kristofer Sanchez, physics research; and Venacio Adornado, environmental protection. The awards are given annually to outstanding citizens who have worked for the betterment of the province. It coincides with the annual commemoration of the birth of former president Manuel Quezon, a native son of the province.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Iligan water charges

ILIGAN CITY—The city council recently held a special session to discuss the water charges being implemented by the Iligan City Waterworks System (ICWS), which consumers said were too much. The special session was held amid talks between ICWS officials and the Citizen's Review Commission (CRC). The CRC, a body formed by the SP some three months ago, was earlier tasked to look into the same complaint. Despite the review on water rates, the ICWS believes that its charges were the lowest in Mindanao. Engr. Christine Orbe Alfeche, ICWS assistant manager, also defended the increase the utility firm has implemented.

Jeffrey Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Barangay chair slain

COTABATO CITY—On the first day of his job as village chair of Barangay Poblacion 2 here, Chair Charlie Quintana was shot and was seriously wounded by an unidentified gunman on Tuesday morning. Quintana was preparing for the council session, which he was to preside, when a man, posing as a job applicant, shot him inside his office. He was hit at the back of his head and was immediately rushed to the Cotabato Emergency Hospital here. *Kagawad* Ber Mangua said the victim has been receiving death threats.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Mayor's aide charged

SANTIAGO CITY—A security aide of Mayor Jose Miranda was charged with 90 counts of robbery for allegedly asking money from bus, jeepney and tricycle drivers here. Supt. Renato Turingan, city police director, said Danilo de la Cruz, a member of the public order and safety department and Miranda's close-in security aide, was charged before the prosecutor's office after the drivers filed the complaint. The drivers said De la Cruz threatened them and asked P50 to P100 from each of them. They said the extortion activities happened between February and July this year. Wilfredo Baltar, city information officer, said Miranda ordered an investigation.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Barangay leader charged

BACOLOD CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Thursday filed charges of illegal logging against a barangay captain of Don Salvador Benedicto town, 42 kilometers east of Bacolod, and eight others. Bagong Silang Barangay Chair Vicente Bacordo, his son Eden, Betre Delpan, a certain Romeo and five others were charged before the Municipal Trial Court in Murcia. The complaint claimed Bacordo and his co-accused had cut 49,950 board feet of hard wood worth P1.2 million from the protected forest of Don Salvador Benedicto.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Quarrying resumes in Lazi

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Lazi Bay Resource Development Inc., has resumed its limestone quarry operations in Barangay Simaculong, Lazi town. Director Eligio Ariate of the Bureau of Mines in Central Visayas said the LBRDI resumed operations in early August. The company used to ship out one million tons of limestone to Hong Kong annually but would not scale down its operations to 25,000 tons per month. The LBRDI stopped operations in October 2001 after the price of limestone in the world market dropped.

Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Bislig folk rally against Picop's alleged violation of forestry laws

BISLIG CITY—About 2,000 residents here and from neighboring towns, where the logging concession of the Picop Resources Inc. (PRI) was located, trooped to the city hall last week to protest the conversion of the company's Timber License Agreement (TLA) 43 to an Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma).

The protesters, who were joined by local government officials led by Mayor Florencio Garay, said allowing the conversion could further endanger the rights of the indigenous communities.

The protesters belonging to the Kahugpongan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Surigao del Sur (Kamass), Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and the Masang Alyansa sa Kalamboan sa mga Lumad (Makalumad), instead urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to order an investigation on PRI for various atrocities it allegedly committed including violations of existing forestry, labor and human rights laws.

"The issue to be resolved between the PRI and DENR is not just about the conversion of the company's expired TLA into and Ifma. The far more significant issues to be resolved are those raised by the various concerned sectors before even considering granting the PRI any new Ifma," the protesters said in a statement.

During the rally, representatives from various sectors alleged that the PRI was engaged in massive land-grabbing of *lumad* ancestral lands inside the company's common logging concession; illegal termination of workers and other violation of labor laws; illegal seizure and confiscation of forest products and farm equipment from *lumad* and tree planters who have approved contracts with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and abuses, violence, killings and intimidation perpetuated by the company through its Picop Infantry Battalion (PIB).

Garay, meanwhile, accused the PRI of tax evasion, illegal logging and log smuggling and human rights violations.

But Christine Resma, PRI's Corporate Communication's Officer, said the company was puzzled with the rally.

"We do not know what their interests are in holding their rally," Resma said.

She denied allegations the company was abusive against the locals. "We are not harassing anyone, we are just protecting what is ours. On the issue of unpaid taxes, we have every intention to pay but we are asking for a condonation of the interests and penalties since we are only in partial operation after our temporary shutdown in October," she said.

Edgar Vega, PRI's Industrial Relation's Officer, said the company never violated labor laws.

"The (complaining workers) were not illegally terminated. They refused to follow the return to work order of the DOLE and the Supreme Court has already ruled in favor of the company, so we are not obliged to pay anything," he said.

PRI officials also lambasted DENR Sec. Heherson Alvarez for delaying the conversion of their expired TLA to Ifma, saying they needed the raw materials from TLA 43 to supply their idle machine so that the company could fully operate.

Rep. Jessnar Falcon of the 2nd District of Surigao del Sur said he already talked with President Macapagal-Arroyo on a possible win-win solution to the conflict between PRI and residents of areas where it operates.

Falcon said after the talk, the President formed a panel headed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo to address the issue. *Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DENR chief bares threats after seizing P3.4-M hot lumber

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources chief here has sought legal assistance for the team members who are reportedly receiving threats from alleged logging syndicates after the DENR Bicol office and the Philippine Navy Special Welfare Action Group seized five motorized pump boats loaded with 101,256 board feet of hot logs worth P3.4 million.

The team seized the hot logs in four separate operations in Milavia, Caramoran, Catanduanes; Sto. Niño, Bacon, Sorsogon; Sitio Sua-Cavit, and Manito, Albay. The latest was in Polique Bay at the boundary of Legazpi City and Manito, Albay where eight persons were caught.

DENR regional executive director Oscar Hamada identified the pump boats as MB Lady Diane Fe owned by Favian Escopete; MB J. AMA owned by Juan Garcia; MB Martjon II owned by Martin Ramirez; and MB Diesty owned by Diego Barranda, while the latest unnamed motor boat is owned by Federico Dioneda.

Those caught on board the unmade boat were identified as Randy Dichoso, Gueller Suarez, Alex Arquero, Bayan Agari, Rafael Divina Jr., Romeo Dalde, Manuel Dioneda Jr. and Federico Dioneda.

The confiscated pump boats and lumbers are now impounded for safekeeping at the Naval Station in Rawis, Legazpi City. The suspects have been committed to the Legazpi City jail after the cases were filed against them at the Regional Trial Court, 5th Judicial Region.

Hamada attributed the successful operations to the commitment and support of the member-agencies of the newly created Environmental Protection Committee of the Regional Peace and Order Council headed by Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara.

But he said that as a result of the operations, both DENR personnel and Navy and Army operatives involved in the arrest are being sued by both owners for piracy and grave coercion.

"We have already sought the help of Secretary Alvarez to provide legal assistance and 'moral guidance' to the team members who are being harassed by the perpetrators who are allegedly prominent and well-connected personalities in Legazpi City," he said. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

1st priests' congress resolves to work for renewal

By Lino Gilbert K. Parone
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—It was the day of reckoning for 261 active and retired, diocesan and religious Catholic priests in Cebu yesterday.

They converged at the Ecotech Center in Barangay Lahug here for the plenary assembly of the Cebu Archdiocese's first-ever Priests' Congress, approving resolutions aimed at refurbishing not just the image of priests but also looking deeper into the physical, psychological and spiritual demands of the priestly ministry.

Jesuit priest Danny Huang talked about Spirituality of Diocesan Priests. Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle of Imus, Cavite tackled the topic "Person and Communion." Bishop Crisostomo Yalung, former Auxiliary Bishop of Manila, expounded on Pastoral Administration.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal on Monday night presided over a solemn Holy Hour for most of the priests, pleading them to pray and to hope for a new dawn of renewal.

"It is what we do tonight, to stay awake so that evil will not enter our hearts, and to await the sunrise of change," Vidal said.

Fr. Marnell Mejia, parochial vicar of the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral, said it was not entirely correct to say the Congress was conducted as a result of two sex scandals involving religious priests that were exposed in this city last July.

Augustinian priest Fr. Apolinario "Jing" Mejorada was accused last July 19 by four of his former altar boys and another young boy of sexually molesting them between 1995 and 1999.

About a week later, Fr. Mercurio Montenegro of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart was also accused by 29-year-old man and more than 30 other altar boys of the same offense from 1987 to 1997.

Vidal had formed a panel of experts to look into the allegations. "We have already prepared for this Congress even before these scandals came out. An activity of such magnitude can't be conducted with short preparation," Mejia said.

The Cebu Archdiocese, in a series of editorials in its weekly newsletter, Bagong Lungsuranon, laid down the need for priestly renewal. The Archdiocese said the times had changed, and priests as persons were deluged by secular influences that undermined their effectivity as priests.

Vidal continuously prayed for priestly renewal in almost all his homilies and speeches.

The prelate asked the lay ministers to lead parishioners in solemn prayers and reflections, songs of supplication, religious incantations, candle vigil from 8 to 9 p.m. last night in all 140 parish churches all over the Archdiocese.

The religious preparation also included personal sacrifices such as fasting in support of the priests who themselves held their own spiritual preparation and vigil at the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral.

In some of the homes of Cebu's more than 1.5 million Catholics, rosaries and prayer meetings were also held.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Tarlac remembers Ninoy, the politician

By Jo Clemente
Tarlac City

REMEMBER Ninoy. This was the cry of Tarlac when the body of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was brought home in August 1983, after more than a decade of absence from his province.

That was Ninoy's second homecoming and for most Tarlaqueños, it was very much different from the first and far from what they expected.

Ninoy was the most formidable contender to the presidency of Ferdinand Marcos. He could have been the youngest president of the Philippines, but as luminous and fast rising his political career had been, his was a star snapped out by martial rule.

Tarlac remembers this and the many big and small stories of how Ninoy made political strides to make his star shine.

Classic moves

Ninoy was a Nacionalista Party (NP) member when he started out in politics. His first stint was in 1955 when he was elected mayor of Concepcion town. At the same time, he was special assistant for political affairs and press relations of President Ramon Magsaysay.

When Magsaysay died in a plane crash in 1957, President Carlos Garcia retained his services.

In 1959, Ninoy was elected vice governor of Tarlac. In that election, both Ninoy and NP candidate Arsenio Lugay won the race over Liberal Party's Jose Yap (now governor of Tarlac) and Lazaro Domingo.

Two years to their six-year term, Lugay was appointed secretary for general services by Garcia, leaving the unexpired portion of his term to Ninoy.

Political talk then said it was the proverbial "kick-him-up" tactic as Ninoy "had something to do" with Lugay's appointment to the national post.

Before his term as governor ended, Ninoy took a major turn in his political career. He moved to the Liberal Party (LP) and became its candidate for governor in the 1963 elections. By then, Lugay had returned to Tarlac to seek reelection under his old party, this time against Ninoy.

Local LP leaders were astonished. According to former Tarlac Gov. Candido "Amang" Guiam, they had no choice but to accept and campaign for Ninoy as this was the directive from national party leaders.

Guiam said Ninoy was really very popular and won in most towns of the province when he ran for vice governor, but not in Victoria town, the bailiwick of Yap and the LP.

Ninoy's most classic story would evolve during the 1963 campaign. On the eve of the elections, old residents claimed that Ninoy visited Lugay in his house carrying a *bayong* (native bag).

Lugay, a quiet and simple man equally loved by the people, graciously accepted his visit. But after the visit, Ninoy went straight to a basketball court across Lugay's house and told those who were there that Lugay had conceded to him, noting that the *bayong* was no longer with him.

Many of Tarlac's old folk remembered this tale. The family of Lugay confirmed the visit.

Conrad, Lugay's son, said it was way too late for them to correct the news that spread like wildfire. His father just wept, he said.

The same story was told by Hermogenes Dayao, who was 22 years old then and was one of Ninoy's followers. Asked what was in the *bayong*, Dayao said it was nothing but *kangkong*.

Needless to say, Ninoy won over Lugay in that election.

First homecoming

In 1968, Ninoy bid his provincemates goodbye to seek a seat in the Senate. "The people of Tarlac allowed him," said Guiam. "They pinned so much hope on Ninoy and the overwhelming results of the elections were proof. They know the Senate was a stepping stone and the target was the presidency."

In that election, Marcos almost made a sweep of the NP senatorial slate, except for one, Ninoy. In that election, too, two Tarlaqueños made it to the Senate—Ninoy and NP stalwart Jose Roy.

Ninoy's senatorial bid, however, would have a second round. His disqualification was sought because he was several weeks short of 35, the age requirement. The case was lodged before the Senate electoral tribunal, which would decide whether reference to age should be made on the day of elections or on the day the elected senators take their oath of office. The latter was chosen by a 5-4 vote.

Triumphant and jubilant, Tarlac prepared a homecoming for its beloved senator. The organizers included former Governor Lugay.

On Jan. 18, 1969, a local tabloid, The Tarlac Monitor, reported that "Tarlac province turned out en masse" to welcome their favorite son. Local officials greeted Ninoy, except the new governor, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., Ninoy's cousin, who was reportedly out of the country during that time.

Ninoy brought with him LP stalwarts Jovito Salonga, Juan Liwag, Sergio Osmeña Jr. and the wife of Ambrosio Padilla, who represented her husband.

In that homecoming, Ninoy made what was described as an "epoch-making speech" detailing a litany of misdeeds of the Marcos administration.

Charismatic leader

As a political leader, Ninoy was charismatic. He called friends "*pare* (buddy)" and those with the slightest tinge of blood relations "*primo* (cousin)."

Dayao, the barangay captain of Buhilit in Tarlac City in the last 30 years, recalled: "People would troop to where (Ninoy) goes. During campaigns, women will cook early and trek to the next barrio to listen to him."

The people of Tarlac, on the other hand, have their own "terms of endearment" for Ninoy—they called him *sarsa* (sauce). They recognized how much "gravy or sauce" he put in when he talked but they listened to him nonetheless and wanted more.

Dayao said Ninoy ate whatever was offered him and moved around without a bodyguard.

Ninoy was all for youth. Education was his top concern. He donated all of his yearly salary of P12,000 to the Ninoy Scholarship Fund.

When he set out his "Our Design for a Better Tarlac" as a platform of his governorship, he made true his promise of bringing a public college to the province. He established the Tarlac campus of the University of the Philippines.

When martial law was declared in September 1972, UP-Tarlac was shut down because the subsidy from the provincial government stopped. In the Senate, one of Ninoy's early bills was the establishment of a student loan fund for poor but deserving students.

On Aug. 17, 1984 or almost a year after Ninoy's assassination and amid clamor for making him a national hero, the provincial board passed Resolution 98 "to register a vigorous and strong objection" to the passage of the bill. The board was then dominated by members of Marcos' Kilusang Bagong Lipunan.

The resolution said: "A hero is not created by legislation but made so by spontaneous acclamation of the people." It also claimed that "the political beliefs and actions, official achievements of Ninoy during his term as provincial official were highly controversial and were in doubt even in the province."

"Incidents in his private, political beliefs, moral and political character are highly controversial issues that no man or official body can competently pass upon his character and achievements," the resolution said.

"Only history and future generations of Filipinos can calmly and objectively judge the true worth and moral character of Senator Aquino," it added.

On March 17, 1986, weeks after Corazon Aquino, wife of Ninoy, took over the reins of government, a new set of OIC (officer-in-charge) board members passed Resolution 21, which described Resolution 98 as a "perversion of truth" and thus sought to "repeal, abrogate and recall" it.

On April 1 of that year, another resolution was approved by the provincial board. It wanted to rename Tarlac as Benigno S. Aquino province.

> In 1986, politicians wanted to rename Tarlac Benigno S. Aquino province

A symbol of hope, democracy

By Ronaldo Dizon and Russell Arador
Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac City

THE AQUINO Center at the sprawling Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac City is among the country's rallying symbols of hope, a learning experience in its brand of democracy.

A walk inside the cavernous chambers of the center is proof of the courage of one Filipino, a Tarlaqueño, who stood in the path of a dictator and died for the country. His death, though a great loss for the nation, won the people's freedom from 20 years of iron-hand rule.

Now, a year since its inauguration, the Aquino Center at the 6,000-hectare Hacienda Luisita has become a reminder of the death of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., after whom it was named. Ninoy was gunned down on the tarmac of the Manila International Airport on Aug. 21, 1983.

During the center's inauguration last year, former President Corazon Aquino said: "Young men and women who do not know Ninoy will benefit from the center. They will learn about the sacrifices of Ninoy during martial law until his death and the Filipinos during the first People Power."

And it did.

Tourists visit the museum to relive the life of a fallen hero and be witnesses again to the strengthening of democracy in the country. Students have learned to appreciate the meaning of Ninoy's death. His assassination became the fuse that culminated in the 1986 Edsa Revolution and the ouster of strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

The Aquino Center sits inside the Luisita Industrial Park (LIP), just 200 meters from the national highway and the headquarters of the Army's Northern Luzon Command in Camp Gen. Servillano Aquino, named after Ninoy's grandfather.

Located about 500 meters from the LIP's main entrance in Barangay San Miguel, the Aquino Center, a U-shaped structure with a manicured lawn at the center, houses the memorabilia, rare photographs, copies of speeches, other documents and personal belongings of Aquino.

Its main attraction is the museum that contains not only photographs and documents but also Ninoy's bloodstained white shirt, black leather boots, typewriter and wristwatches.

Early this year, Ninoy's ring and a commemorative coin given to him by former United States President Ronald Reagan were stolen but later recovered.

The ring was never again seen in the museum. According to Robbie Gonzales, director of operations of the Aquino Center, Ms Aquino kept the ring in her family's possession.

The museum has four chambers. The first contains Ninoy's photos and memorabilia from 1950 to 1971. The second houses materials about his arrest, exile and assassination (1972-1983).

Ninoy's memoirs of his detention are found in this chamber. "I was able to talk to God, that gave me the strength and spirit to fight for the Filipino people, to forget my political career and personal ambitions but to pursue a mission—to unify the people and attain their quest for struggle, progress and democracy," he wrote.

The third and fourth chambers cover Ms Aquino's rise to power until the end of her term in 1992.

The museum is found on the right wing of the center, along with function rooms for seminars and training, an audio-visual room, a landmark tower and a chapel. On the opposite wing are the Ninoy Aquino Library, more function rooms and the ballroom.

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RP refugees from Sabah are today's boat people

From page A1

sought shelter on Mapun Island, a Shangri-la of 30,000 natives amid lush *kamagong* forests, uniformly laid-out coconut groves and the return-to-paradise Ernestine Lake. Still, the main island of the Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi group strains at the seams to be hospitable as it provides shelter, rice and medical attention to the desperate, sick and starving arrivals.

Tales of sorrow

Tales of barely veiled terror, confusion and great sorrow abound among them. They speak haltingly only when spoken to. Otherwise, they are still while they queue up in the noonday sun to seek medical treatment for the large number of sick children. The children are still, too, the faintest whimper long gone from their parched throats.

The saga of this new wave of boat people began just after midnight on Aug. 1. While the Navy patrol ship BRP Sultan Kudarat under Capt. Alexander Pama was prowling the Sulu Sea for Commander Robot and his Abu Sayyaf cohorts, it spied an unlit fishing boat. Preparing to arrest what could be smugglers, Pama was shocked to discover a 30-foot fishing boat, the F/B Jamilla, capacity 30 passengers, groaning under the weight of 173 people, mostly women and children.

Packed tighter than sardines among bundles of their earthly belongings, Pama feared a squall would capsize the fishing boat. He arrested its master and asked the passengers to move to his vessel. A lass is seen making the Sign of the Cross as she comes aboard the Sultan Kudarat.

Commodore Ernesto de Leon happened to be on a Command Area Visit on the fringes of our Philippine border with Malaysia and rendezvoused with Pama's ship at Taganak, among the Turtle Islands. There, De Leon, commander of Naval Forces South, decided to ferry the refugees to Mapun, which he described as "the more affluent island." A choppy sea en route only served to drive home what the 173 refugees' fate could have been.

Poorest of poor

"Poor, poor, poor, the poorest of the poor," De Leon described the refugees. He recalled how the Philippine Navy similarly rescued two decades ago many a boatload of Southern Vietnamese fleeing the new communist regime.

"If we could do it for the Vietnamese, how much more should we be helping our own countrymen?" said Vice Adm. Victorino S. Hingco, flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy. He visited Mapun on Monday.

Hingco has asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to work out arrangements for larger Navy ships to pick up more refugees from Sandakan before the Aug. 24 deadline. Foreign Secretary Blas Ople is reported to be going to Kuala Lumpur to negotiate for the deportees' orderly departure.

Haron Alabi, who thinks he is about 40, from Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, was a carpenter in Sandakan. One of his five children is stricken with diarrhea. "The water's different here," he said.

Sangkula Juwala's wife, Patma, can barely stand. Juwala suspects his wife is afflicted with anemia.

At Kampong Karansangan, Malaysian police raided 300 shanties of poor Filipinos. The undocumented, including Juwala, wife and three toddlers, all appearing seriously malnourished, were brought to prison in trucks.

Barely fed by prison authorities, and short of drinking water, the prisoners "slept most of the time on the cement floor to stave off hunger." The Kota Kinabalu police brought them a few pieces of their clothing, "but our TV and furniture are gone."

Babies starve to death

That's not the worst of it for the Juwala family. "I watched six babies die from starvation," among the 200 or so prisoners during the 20-day imprisonment, Juwala said in Tausog. "A seventh child was brought to the hospital where they cut her open and pulled out her innards," he said. Presumably, that was an autopsy, although from his perspective, the child was butchered. "But I don't know why," Juwala said. To add to the family's misery, his wife's relative "went crazy, but he's still in prison."

Aksan Mating, 52, watched in terror as Kudat police came toward her house, destroying all structures in their wake, 50 in all. Hers was torn down the next day, giving her, her husband and two *mestiza* teenaged girls time to save pots, dishes, rice and clothing, all in bundles in Mapun's barangay hall. A nephew saw Aksan among the arrivals, and is happy to have met his pretty cousins, still dazed from the nightmare.

Gamal Kunding, 30, palm oil plantation worker in Sandakan, is extremely sad to have left his two children and wife, who has identification papers, behind. Police raided the plantation and threw him in prison. Two days later, his brother showed up with a launch for anyone among the more than 100 prisoners who wanted repatriation and could afford the fare.

Most families paid an average of P500 per person for the passage to Mapun, where the local government identifies all the refugees and their end-destinations. The very sick are placed in some of the locals' houses. The rest are brought to the barangay hall or a school. The office of Mayor Nickerson Tan, 31, rations uncooked rice.

Outdoors at the Municipal Hall, Department of Health (DOH) nurses screen sick patients and send them to one of three doctors in a makeshift clinic indoors. Dr. Marlowe Paalam said the children in the cramped quarters were infecting each other with upper respiratory ailments and scabies.

For the time being, Paalam says there are enough antibiotics and other drugs for the refugees. A Navy ship, the BRP Bacolod, brought the medicines from the DOH of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) headquarters in Cotabato. Representative Soraya Jaafar, and the ARMM Social Welfare Department also donated medicines.

Needs all help

"I asked the Philippine Navy to help awake the national government because I'm very worried about all the deportees arriving here," Mayor Tan said. He needs all the help he can get. Mapun's affinity to Sandakan is historical, trading copra for Sandakan's chickens and rice.

Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi is much closer to Sabah than to the rest of the Philippines. The Muslims, who account for 80 percent of the population, co-exist with the Christians on the zero-crime rate island. The barangay chair is a Christian.

Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat echoes Mayor Tan's worry. She is worried about unemployment, squatting, crime and terrorists infiltrating the refugees' ranks. A woman was caught shoplifting a can of milk for her little girl, a man snatched a cell phone, and new illegal vendors abound.

The commercial vessels Mary Joy and Weesam have made several trips to Sandakan, depositing their passengers in Zamboanga City. "They go through the DSWD and are brought to Talon-Talon," in the city, Lobregat said. "But others just arrive on their own. That is what is alarming," she said. The Navy has also brought in shiploads totaling close to 3,000 refugees.

Lobregat has called President Macapagal-Arroyo and is pleased the President is responding. Two meetings have been held with the concerned agencies and the Southern Command, including the Philippine Navy.

Malaysian Consul Ismail, who is based in Davao, called Lobregat Monday to advise her that the Philippine Navy was sending ships to Malaysia. SouthCom Cmdr. Ernesto Carolina told her that the military was still waiting for the outcome of diplomatic talks between Malaysia and the Philippines.

But Admiral Hingco is ready with two large vessels, which can each carry 1,000 people whenever anyone gives the go signal. In the meantime, the BRP Bacolod, with a 1,000-passenger capacity, was set to leave Mapun with the 612 refugees to rendezvous with BRP Pangasinan and BRP Flojo Iñigo, for a transfer at sea of passengers. The latter two vessels will repatriate their passengers to Basilan and Jolo. Bacolod will ferry the rest to Zamboanga City.

All passengers' photos will be taken to calm fears that terrorists are mixing with refugees.

Today's boat people left Mindanao when the Moro National Liberation Front's war for secession began in 1970. Working for meager wages (today at an average 13 ringgit or P169 a day), tens of thousands of Filipinos in Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan and Kudat are without papers.

Shunning direct attribution, Philippine officials said "the Sabah problem," meaning the country's age-old claim to Sabah, could be the major reason for Malaysia's paranoia. As Filipino families burgeon, "the Malaysians feel they have to make a loud statement: Sabah is ours," said one. "They have to impose their sovereignty," said another.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 1 OF RULE 7, JBC-009, RULES OF THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

Acting on the letter dated 22 July 2002 of Senator Francis N. Pangilinan, submitting for the Council's consideration and approval of the proposed amendment to Section 1 of Rule 7, JBC-009, Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council, with further amendments by Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno, Consultant, the Council Resolved to APPROVE the insertion of a paragraph to Section 1 of Rule 7, as follows:

xxx

"The interviews for the positions in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan and Ombudsman shall be conducted in public. Access by the media to the interviews shall be subject to the rules that the Council may promulgate. For this purpose, the list of candidates, date and place of the interview shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines and once in a newspaper of local circulation in the province or city where the vacancy in question is located." (Emphasis supplied)

xxx

This amendment to Section 1 of Rule 7 shall take effect on the first day of September 2002 following its publication in two newspapers of general circulation on or before 20 August 2002.

14 August 2002.

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Chief Justice
Ex Officio Chairman
Judicial & Bar Council

HERNANDO B. PEREZ
Secretary of Justice
Ex Officio Member

FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN
Senator
Ex Officio Member

ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO
Representative
Ex Officio Member

REGINO C. HERMOSISIMA, JR.
Member

AMADO L. DIMAYUGA
Member

TERESITA CRUZ SISON
Member

"The Filipino is worth dying for."

Patunayan natin tama siya!

IN MEMORIAM:
BENIGNO "NINOY" S. AQUINO, JR.
Assassinated on the tarmac, Manila International Airport
12:55p.m., Monday, August 21, 1983

EDSA People Power Commission **Spirit of EDSA Fdtn., Inc.**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROCUREMENT SERVICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF AIR FORCE BATTLE DRESS ATTIRE, CAMOUFLAGE BLUE SUIT WITH BERET.**

The approved budget for this contract is **P16,972,800.00**.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on **August 23, 2002, 9:30 A.M.** at the **PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **August 14, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).**

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of proposals shall be on **September 10, 2002 at 1:30 P.M.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. **561-60-98 or 563-94-02**.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI--Aug. 14 & 21, 2002)

Erap wants 'Da King' for president

From page A1

Fernando Poe Jr., but it was Estrada who made his wishes known. He wants "FPJ," who he said "will never lose" if he runs for president in 2004, to think about it.

Asked if his best friend was now throwing his hat into the presidential ring, Estrada said: "No, not yet. He's still studying it."

But while a few months back Estrada denied endorsing his friend for 2004, yesterday he said: "I'm encouraging him and giving him pointers on what's happening in our country: that it's about time the one who should be elected is for the poor, not for the elite."

"I'm telling him that there's no school for becoming a president. It's always a learning curve," he added.

He lavished more praise on the birthday celebrant: "(Poe) is actually more loved by the movie industry and more popular than I am. That's why to the movie people, he will never lose (*wala siyang talo*) if he runs."

Interviewed on the phone at around 2:30 p.m. yesterday, Estrada said Poe, who just turned 62, also spent his birthday last year with him at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, "but now it's my turn" to provide the food.

The menu included lobsters, pasta and vegetable salad, he said.

Piano music wafted in the background as he spoke. "That's Dr. Loi (his senator wife) playing," said Estrada.

"It's just a simple gathering. We're just around 12 people here, sharing three tables," he said. The guests included opposition Senators Vicente Sotto III and Panfilo Lacson, movie producer Espiridion Laxa and film director Eddie Romero, he added.

Accused of amassing up to P4 billion in ill-gotten wealth during his abbreviated term, Estrada, along with son Jinggoy, have been detained at the VMMC since May last year on charges of plunder, a capital offense. The elder Estrada is also accused of two counts of perjury and illegal use of an alias.

Republic of the Philippines
SOUTHERN LEYTE STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Main Campus, 6606 Sogod, Southern Leyte
Tel. No.: (053) 3822003/3823294/3822439/Telefax No.: (053) 3823294
website: http://www.slsctonline.edu.ph e-add: slscsl@slsctonline.edu.ph

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

a. The Southern Leyte State College of Science and Technology, Sogod, Southern Leyte is inviting registered contractors (Category "C"-Building) to pre-qualify and bid the proposed construction/continuation of SLSCST Two-Storey Administration Building Phase III

b. Pre-C Forms, Bid documents as well as other information are available at the BAC Secretariat c/o BAC Chairman, SLSCST Sogod, Southern Leyte upon submission of the following: (1) Letter of Intent; (2) PCAB License; (3) Certification of Completion and Acceptance of Contract Agreement of completed similar projects, and (4) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

c. Working plan shall be released to pre-qualified contractors upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,500.00 only from authorized representative with authorization from the owner/board

d. Schedule of activities.

1	Pre-Qualification	September 16, 2002
2	Issuance of Bid Documents	September 23, 2002
3.	Pre-bidding conference	September 30, 2002
4	Submission of pre-C and Bid Documents	October 14, 2002

e. SLSCST reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formality any defect herein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government

For more information, please contact Dr. Valerio B. Cabalo, BAC Chairman or Mrs. Bernardita G. Lora, BAC Executive Officer and Secretary. Telephone number (053) 382-2003, 382-3294

(SGD) LEONARDO L. MANALO
President

(PDI--Aug. 21, 23 & 25, 2002)

'I am asking Marcos to exit with his loot'

From page A1

the Islamic League which met in Islamabad last March.

"The leadership asked me to meet with them to 'brief me' on their present status of forces and demands from the Marcos regime. They were promised all-out financial and logistical support by the Islamic countries, principally Saudi Arabia and Libya last March on the condition that the warring factions got together—common battle strategy. I understand, they are planning to launch a major offensive this coming rainy season.

"Reports from Manila have it: warrants of arrest have been issued for PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL, former Senator Eva Estrada Kalaw and former Con-Con Delegate Ernie Rondon for alleged implication in the Colonels' plot to assassinate Marcos and overthrow the government. Some thirty retired colonels and eight active senior officers have been similarly charged (eight still at large) although the defense ministry has not yet revealed the names of the army officers involved.

"DOY LAUREL flew in from Tokyo the other day for a marathon conference. He updated me on latest developments in Manila and the forging of a COALITION OF ALL OPPOSITION GROUPS. He said, the coalition wants to elect me chairman in absentia next Aug. 19, 1980 when the formal manifesto is signed and the coalition officially launched. Raul Manglapus here in the US also wants to relinquish the presidency of the movement here in the US to me so that I would be elected both chairman of the Philippine and US groups.

"Last night Malacañang called me to 'verify' whether ARNOLD ZEITLIN of the ASSOCIATED PRESS (**Manila bureau chief-Ed.**) quoted correctly in an article released world-wide by the AP. I told Minister **(Carmel Barbero, then deputy defense minister-Ed.)** BARBERO who called on behalf of the President that Zeitlin talked to me by phone but that I never knew he was interviewing me. Specifically, Marcos wanted to know whether I really compared him to the Shah of Iran and whether I said: 'Marcos can't bully me now because I am beyond his jurisdiction.' I chose not to deny the quotation and merely limited myself to saying that Zeitlin did talk to me but that I didn't know he was interviewing me.

"To my surprise, BARBERO 'pleaded to tone down the rhetoric' and dangled the carrot that 'the President is really very inclined to allow you to proceed to Harvard and accept your fellowship grant.' He also inquired whether I was accepting the chairmanship of the new coalition and the leadership of the Movement here in the US. My enigmatic answer was: 'I am still thinking about it' but that my first preference is to accept the fellowship at Harvard. My message is: Marcos better not play with me too much . . . GRANT ME AN AMNESTY BUT FAST or I take to the underground . . . I think they got the message and they will come through with the amnesty carrot before the end of next month. BARBERO SAID: 'Pls. give the President time to tie up loose ends. I assure you he is taking up your case with the justices of the Supreme Court and decision is forthcoming any day **(sic)** . . . Meanwhile, please enjoy your stay which has been extended INDEFINITELY.'

"Marcos is still trying to hold on to me . . . and he refuses to accept the reality that his little bird has flown the cage.

"I am now writing a long letter to him, asking him to study his options very carefully . . . AGREE TO A PEACEFUL TRANSITION and exit in a blaze of glory with his LOOT INTACT or await the inevitable blow-up and end up like the Shah and Somoza . . . I know these are hard words, but believe me, Colonel **(Enrique Zobel-Ed)** . . . the blow-up is not too far behind. EVEN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES are now restless.

"I do not know if you noticed the news item on Korea in yesterday's papers. The Martial Law commander General Chun announced that nine top officials connected with President Park have 'agreed to retire from public life and return all their ill-gotten wealth totaling $147 million to the Korean people in exchange for non-prosecution of past crimes by the government.' These officials included KIM JONG PIL, former KCIA director and PRIME MINISTER, and LEE HU RAK former KCIA director and ambassador to Japan and Park's cabinet secretary. KIM until last month was campaigning for the presidency in the forthcoming elections. He confessed to amassing $48 million during his incumbency as KCIA director and Prime Minister mostly kickbacks from Japanese [illegible] dealing with the government and local Korean contractors (highway and tunnel). REALLY NEAT! Gave me a terrific idea—re our own instant millionaires!

"Thanks for the book and for everything."

Landbank tax scam soars to ₱432M

From page A1

Francisco and Joven C. Aquino.

Acsa Ramirez, cashier of the Landbank branch, reported the P203-million tax diversion to higher-ups two months ago and exposed the operations of the syndicate.

By some strange twist, however, the National Bureau of Investigation later tagged her a suspect in the case for allegedly failing to report some of the transactions.

Of the P432 million in taxes diverted, only P9 million was left in the four accounts when the scam was exposed. The remaining P9 million in the accounts had been frozen upon the orders of the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

In a press statement, Teves said he reported the latest findings to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho on Monday.

The P432 million worth of checks payable to the BIR were issued by the same seven firms, raising suspicions that certain officers in these companies were involved in the scam.

Among the seven large taxpayers are Lorenzo Shipping, GMA Marketing, Matsushita Corp. and Dow Chemicals Corp.

On Friday, a former vice president of Lorenzo Shipping Corp. was charged in connection with the tax scam.

Ronilo T. Yu, the shipping firm's vice president for finance and administration, was charged with syndicated estafa and violations of the Anti-Money Laundering Law.

Yu, however, left for Canada on Aug. 9, the Bureau of Immigration confirmed yesterday.

Besides Yu, the NBI has also filed charges against businessman Teodorico Rivera, of Ipil-ipil Street, Town and Country Subdivision, Marilao, Bulacan; his niece-in-law Resty Rivera, of Parañaque City; a John Doe alias "Joven C. Aquino," and a Jane and a John Doe.

Sources said the NBI had identified the man with the alias "Joven C. Aquino," but they said the bureau was still waiting for him to surface.

Probe expanded

Lawyer Palmer Mallari, acting chief of the NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division, said the bureau had also asked the other taxpayers to furnish the NBI with documents concerning their tax payments.

"They have already submitted copies of their checks, official (tax) receipts, and other documents. We are now waiting for them to give their 201 (personnel) files," Mallari said.

He said the NBI wanted to know the identities of the employees who handled the tax payments.

"Obviously, we want to know who brought their check payments (and received the ORs). We will then check with the BIR if these funds did go (to the treasury)," Mallari said.

"If not, then where did the money go? We will then find out if they are members of the syndicate," he added.

In the case of Lorenzo Shipping, the syndicate submitted fake Landbank official receipts, tax returns, and other documents containing fake validations to the firm's accounting department to hide the diversions.

But a witness, who was once a Lorenzo Shipping employee, exposed the scam.

"The witness gave us a detailed sworn statement naming the people involved in the fraud," Mallari said.

In its complaint to the Department of Justice, the bureau said that Yu apparently masterminded the scheme.

"These people wanted him (the witness) to lie before the NBI. They had a version that they wanted him to adopt. But the witness thought of the consequences and he told the NBI the truth," Mallari added.

Mallari said the witness was now applying for the government's Witness Protection Program.

Acsa case

The Anti-Money Laundering Council had been mum on the Acsa Ramirez case even as sources believed that the Landbank cashier was not guilty of violating the Anti-Money Laundering Law contrary to allegations of the NBI.

Gilda Pico, Landbank executive vice president, said that a cashier like Ramirez had no "verification duties." The Anti-Money Laundering Law covers only bank personnel that have such duties.

The law also prohibits the disclosure of cases under investigation and the suspects involved. Under this provision, Ramirez or even Binangonan branch manager Artemio San Juan should not have been paraded to the public as a suspect, according to a source.

But the NBI overruled the Anti-Money Laundering Council on this issue, and presented Ramirez as a suspect in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Personally, I don't think she's involved because she was the one who tipped us about the scam. As a cashier, she would be required to sign some documents," Teves said on Aug. 8.

"Still, everybody who was involved in the case, including Ramirez, continues to be a suspect," he added.

Bomb threat

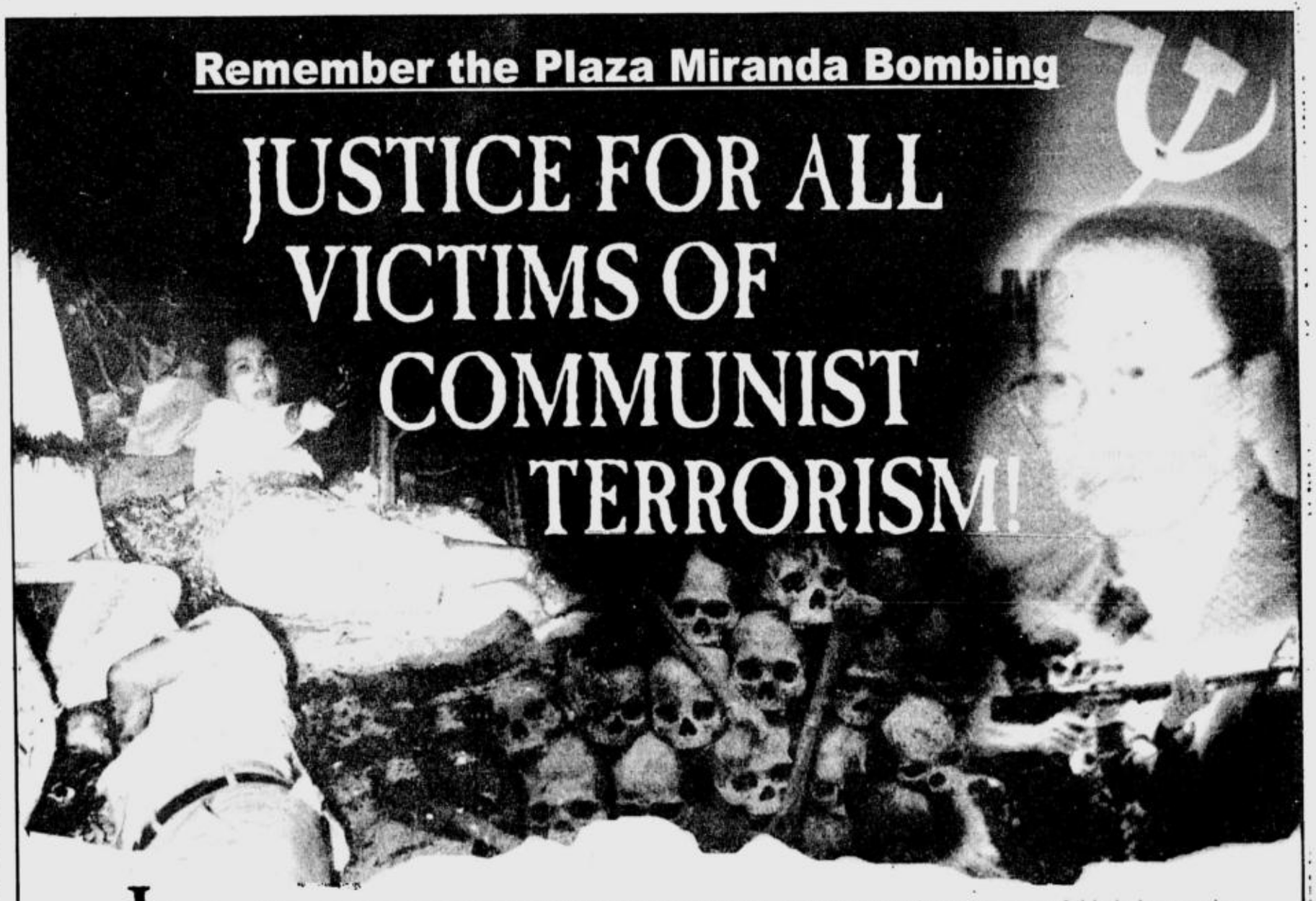
Amid all the controversy surrounding the case, a bomb scare hit the Landbank main office in Manila.

Landbank employee Fatima Buderes told police that a woman, with a "modulated voice," called at around 3:30 p.m. yesterday.

"Vacate your building. Any time, it will explode," Buderes quoted the woman caller as saying.

SPO1 Pablito Celestino of the Manila Police Explosives and Ordnance Division said his men searched the building, which was partially evacuated, but found no bomb.

Some Landbank employees, however, were allowed to go home early due to the bomb scare, Celestino said.



It has been 31 years since the savage bombing of Plaza Miranda. Still, the actual perpetrators of this heinous crime continue to mock the nation from the comfort of foreign "exile."

That bombing was timed to cause political tensions to explode. That calamitous event threw our entire nation into the cauldron of political turbulence from which our economy has yet to recover. While the rest of Asia prospered over the last three decades, the Philippines wrestled with the traumas of civil conflict.

There is more to account for this brutal act than merely the blood of innocent victims. The whole nation was wounded by this singular act of barbarism done by callous ideologues.

The communists were initially successful in pinning the blame for this crime on Ferdinand Marcos. But subsequent evidence and personal testimonies now tell us the mastermind is no other than Jose Ma. Sison — a cruel Maoist ideologue who has shown a willingness to murder and pillage to advance his so-called "people's war." Maoism killed his conscience, as it did the consciences of other fanatics lured into this mad crusade.

The venerable Jovito Salonga, nearly killed by this bombing, has compiled evidence that pins the blame on the CPP-NPA. From testimonies of his former comrades, it is now clear the bombing was undertaken by NPA commander Danilo Cordero. The brash commander was later executed when he began talking about the gruesome crime.

With the evidence on hand, no wonder Sison chooses to stay in the Netherlands even as he exhorts his followers to commit more violence at home.

At the height of the bloody purges among communist ranks during the late eighties, Sison pinned the blame for the "killing fields" on Satur Ocampo, calling the latter a "murderer." Piqued at Sison, Ocampo threatened to tell all about the Plaza Miranda bombing. But he never found the moral courage to do so. Nor did he find the common decency to admit responsibility for the bloody purges that took the lives of hundreds of his own communist comrades.

We now know enough of the brutalities committed by these Maoist ideologues. Let us make sure that our people will never forget.

The National Alliance for Democracy and the Balikatan People's Alliance call on all victims of communist atrocities to come forward and speak their truth. We will protect them and provide legal assistance so that communist criminals will be made to account for their crimes.

Let us clear the record so that our nation can move on the path to justice and democracy. We are confident there are enough Filipinos with the moral courage to stand up to the deception and intimidation of the communists.

For the worst political crime ever perpetrated in our country, Jose Ma. Sison must be made to face just penalty.

★ National Alliance for Democracy
★ Balikatan People's Alliance

Always tune in at **BAYAN KO, SAGOT KO!** Monday to Friday 7:00 - 8:00 P.M. 1278 Khz. DZRM

No need for Joey at Ninoy rites, says GMA

From page A1

Macapagal and stay far from the Aquino mausoleum, according to Siytangco.

"He's been mayor for many years and he never attended a single memorial service for Ninoy. How come he's attending now?" she said.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye cut short a question on Marquez's presence in today's commemoration rites. "There is no protocol involved here because this is a private affair of the Aquino family," he said at his regular press briefing.

Bunye said Ms Macapagal "will be going there as a special guest of former President Cory Aquino."

But earlier in the day, Bunye said in a radio interview that Marquez's presence (at the memorial service) was "normal because he is the mayor of the city."

Kris' brother, Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, described as "quite insensitive" the supposed plan of the Palace to have Marquez welcome the President.

The Aquino family is distressed over the romance between Kris and Marquez, who is currently seeking an annulment of his marriage to actress Alma Moreno. "I don't want to talk about Joey anymore. Not until the annulment is done," Noynoy said.

Kris is not expecting Marquez to be at the memorial rites either.

"I believe that he has *delicadeza*. I don't think he will be at the ceremonies of our family," Kris said of Marquez after she arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from the United States where she went on vacation amid the controversy generated by the relationship.

She arrived on board Philippine Airlines flight PR 113 at 5:30 a.m. yesterday.

Kris said she had to cut short her vacation because she had to shoot episodes of her popular game show "Game Ka Na Ba?"

Mass at 10 a.m.

Siytangco said the Mass scheduled for 10 a.m. today would be attended by members of the immediately family, former members of the Aquino Cabinet, and people personally invited by the former president.

They include Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, House Speaker Jose de Venecia and his wife Gina, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Philip Juico, Adolfo Azcuna, and newly resigned Education Secretary Raul Roco.

During the Aquino administration, Romulo was budget secretary, Juico agrarian reform secretary, Azcuna press secretary, and Drilon labor and later executive secretary.

Roco, a longtime chief of staff of Ninoy, was personally invited by Mrs. Aquino to attend the rites.

This would be the first time that Ms Macapagal and Roco would be seen together in public following Roco's abrupt departure from the Department of Education.

Aside from the Mass, to be celebrated by Fr. Catalino Arevalo, simultaneous wreath laying activities will be held at various Aquino memorial shrines in Manila, Makati, Tarlac, and Tagaytay City.

Damage control

In Malacañang, Bunye went on damage control after the INQUIRER reported that Malacañang's protocol office had wanted Marquez's presence because as the mayor of Parañaque, his presence was required, in officially welcoming the President.

"I believe the reporting of the event was not very accurate," Bunye said without elaborating.

He said that the Palace "considers this as a private affair and it will be treated as such."

"So only guests of the former President (Corazon Aquino) who are actually invited will be invited," Bunye said.

Siytangco said Mrs. Aquino had one request—that Filipinos not allow time to erase the memory of Ninoy.

Siytangco said the former President did not even have a special request for assistance from country's latest anti-crime champion, Ms Macapagal, to solve the 19-year-old murder of Ninoy, Marcos's arch critic.

"She only wants Filipinos not to forget why Ninoy died," Siytangco said. "It has always been her prayer that justice be served to all the victims," she added.

Inq7 deluged with Kris hate e-mail

From page A1

Kris' bossom buddies and cohosts in the TV show "Morning Girls," Pops Fernandez and Zsa-Zsa Padilla were identified as "the bad influence" in her life.

"Stop watching 'Sex and the City' . . . it only makes your hormones crazy!" came another suggestion.

Sharon Cuneta, who is now married to Sen. Francis Pangilinan after a failed marriage with actor Gabby Concepcion, was endorsed as "someone to follow."

"Nakakahiya ka, Kris (Shame on you)," said one message.

"Please Kris, *gamitin mo utak mo* (Use you brains)," went another message.

"When she fell in love with Phillip Salvador, I tried to understand her. She was young and Phillip was good-looking and not so old at that time. He was also married but his family was never seen by millions of fans. But this affair with Mr. Marquez, *sus Ginoo!!!* (My God)" came still another e-mail.

"Kris, *sinungaling ang puso* (The heart lies)," came a reminder from an overseas Filipino.

"This man is not even worth your time. *Bilangin mong anak lahat ni* Joey (Count all of Joey's children) and that should be a hint for you," came another.

"And also have pity on the person who gave birth to you—your dearest and ever loving mother. Do not give her shame. Enough *na. Tama na,"* went another.

Plant trees

"Why not try planting trees in the parks, mountains . . . Ninoy and Cory and people like us would be so proud of you," was another unsolicited advice.

When thrown into the limelight 19 years ago today, Kris was a chubby 11-year-old girl who captivated the nation's heart as Ninoy's grieving youngest daughter. In 1978, a 7-year-old Kris captured the heart of the nation when she campaigned for her father, who ran for the Batasan polls from his detention cell in Fort Bonifacio.

In 1986, Kris, already a President's daughter, joined the movies and acted in several comedy flicks. A bad actress, Kris found her medium as game show host in the daily early evening show "Game Ka Na Ba?"

In the early '90s, Kris fell in love and lived-in with Phillip Salvador, a married actor who was already in his 40s. She bore him a son, Josh, now seven years old. But they parted last year when Salvador failed to get an annulment from his wife.

Not a few of Kris' unsolicited advisers blame showbiz for her lifestyle. At least three emails urged Kris to quit showbiz and go back to school "like Janice de Belen." Or quit showbiz and take up law and "make Cory very, very happy and peaceful."

Even the Philippine Daily Inquirer was not spared the flak.

"I can't believe that a highly reputable newspaper would give Kris Aquino a chance to write a column! What are they thinking?," came one reaction.

Kris' column "Kris and Tell," they said, delve on senseless inanities, such as where she had dinner with Josh, and what fragrance she uses during summer.

"Kris Aquino is not only a disgrace to her family but also to ABS-CBN and Philippine Daily Inquirer. I don't think anybody will miss her column should PDI replace her," according to an email sender.

"Philippine Daily Inquirer, WAKE UP!!!

But the harshest words were reserved for Marquez, "the icon of a typical Filipino male," and Kris, if she continues with the affair.

"And for you, Joey,... *maghanap ka na lang ng ibang babae, h'wag yung from Aquino family. Malapit nang bumangon si Ninoy sa kinalalagyan niya para sipain kayo ni Kris!"* wrote an irate reader. (Look for another woman, not from the Aquino family. Ninoy is about to rise from the grave to give you and Kris the boot.)

19 years after, Ninoy legend refuses to die

From page A1

Power Revolution.

The Aquino family has also been frequently visited by *espiritistas* (mediums), who claim to be in touch with the spirits of the slain hero or his murderers.

"They come to us at any time of the day. Some of them even go into trance," the young Aquino said.

Despite the conviction of a general and 15 other soldiers for the murder in September 1990, he said questions remained as to who really ordered the killing.

The young Aquino said the mystery was not so much what happened on the tarmac but what happened before the killing. No mastermind was identified during the trial.

The congressman, who was only 13 when his father was killed, acknowledged that the difficult part was proving in court Marcos' hand in the murder.

"They were adamant that my dad doesn't come home (from exile)," he recalled.

He said that while there were "middle operators" who apparently took orders from Gen. Fabian Ver, then the Armed Forces chief of staff, "what happened probably was that Marcos was really ill and he left guidelines" for his military chief to execute.

He said that even though Marcos and Ver were now dead, the entire truth about his father's killing needed to be unraveled for the benefit of the future generations.

He said the Marcoses should apologize for atrocities committed during martial rule.

"They have to admit that they were wrong and truthfully reconcile with the Filipino people," he said.

In Congress, Aquino crosses path with Marcos' daughter Imee who is representative of Ilocos Norte.

"I bear no ill will toward the children because we are only victims of the parents," he said.

"The only difference is that I know (injustice)," he added.

Crossroads

While his family continues with its quest for the truth about the assassination, in search of justice, the young Aquino is searching for his own destiny, having been anointed by his father to follow in his footsteps.

The 42-year-old bachelor, who is now on his second three-year term in Congress, is considered by the Liberal Party for the senatorial elections in 2004.

"My parents used to tell us that they are a failure if none of us followed in their footsteps," he said.

When he was still in grade school, his father demanded that he be the best in his class and to devote himself to service of our country.

The congressman recalled telling his father, out of pique, that those on the frontline of the revolution never live to see victory because they get killed.

Aquino said his father who was then incarcerated in Fort Magsaysay asked him to take care of the family in 1973.

"You are still young but you have to take care of our family," he recalled his father's words.

And in 1983, the day his father left Boston for Manila, the words were no longer necessary.

"He just nodded at me. His message was understood," Aquino said.

While on a stopover in Taiwan, his father called the family in Boston for the last time. He was on an errand and did not get to talk to him.

But he received the letter his father had wanted him to read in case something bad happened to the senator.

Senate seat

Batanes Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad, president of the Liberal Party, has said that Representative Aquino is one of the LP's candidates for senator in 2004.

The young Aquino, however, is still unsure on whether to run for the Senate that his father once graced.

He said he had been "testing" the waters because of the many appeals and endorsements for him to seek a Senate seat.

Recently, he tried an 800-km land tour of northern Luzon to see if he could bear the rigors of a national campaign.

He was surprised that he got a warm reception in Ilocos Norte, Marcos' bailiwick.

"My problem is my aunt may be running for reelection in the Senate and she has the equity of the incumbent," he said.

He was referring to Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Ninoy's favorite sister, who is still eligible for reelection in 2004.

The congressman said it would be difficult for him and his aunt to run for the same office because they carry the same Aquino name.

'No chain can prevent the spirit to soar'

From page A1

very easily accommodated and compromised and not suffered. He was a very, very energetic fellow who decided that imprisonment was better than subjugation," he added.

Gonzalez said the most impressive expression that Ninoy ever had to make was "it was better to be on your knees than to have the whole world at your fingertips."

According to Gonzalez, the first letter came five years after he had been giving, in Ninoy's own words, "goodies" to the jailed arch critic of the Marcos martial law regime. Most of these were books that the military censors had approved for Aquino's reading.

Ninoy was 45 years old then and on the fifth year of his detention. Gonzalez was 39 then.

Not close friends

The two were not close friends before the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos declared martial rule on Sept. 21, 1972. But their respective houses in New Manila were several corners away, Gonzalez said.

"The saddest thing is although we knew each other before martial law and I would see him here and there, (he only said) 'Hi, Tony.' That's about it," the businessman said.

"When martial rule broke out and he was jailed, somehow I thought it was very, very unjust. So my heart went out to him and I thought, what can I do (to sympathize with him)?"

He said he knew Ninoy to be an active man and the fact that he was in prison "led me to believe that the best thing I could do was send a few things such as puzzles, books just to while his time away."

"So I did that over the months and years and all of a sudden one day he reached out to me. The way he started to do that was through letters," Gonzalez said.

Because he could not see Ninoy, as only the immediate family members and his lawyers were allowed to visit the senator, the letters got to him through the ingenuity of Aquino's eldest daughter, Ballsy.

Candy wrappers

"These letters were wrapped inside candy wrappers. He tied them and then these were rolled up inside candy wrappers and Ballsy sent these to me," he said, serious at the thought that Ballsy herself courted danger for getting out messages from the tightly secured prison.

Without referring to his daughter, Ninoy, in one of the letters, said he had a "carrier pigeon."

"I would send him things through Paul, his youngest brother or Ballsy. That was my only contact with him. And then when he started these letters, that's when we began to really strike up a friendship," Gonzalez recalled.

The letters, he noted, ringed not only with truth and wisdom, but contained intimate glimpses of that dark phase of Philippine history and described the painful ordeal of Ninoy.

"As you would read his letters, you couldn't help but have your heart go out for this man who was so brave," Gonzalez said.

"This was a man who was so full of life yet was caged. So he had to reach out. And he did so with every bit of his soul. That's how I felt when I read the letters. And I was so happy that I was able to give him a little bit of consolation. He was so expressive," he said.

The typewriters Ninoy used in his letters to Gonzalez are on display at the Benigno S. Aquino Jr. Museum inside the Aquino Center in Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac City. At the museum, which officially opened in August last year, Ninoy's prison cell had been recreated. ***(See related story on Page A17.)***

All single-spaced and bearing a few typographical errors, the five letters are not yet included in the Ninoy memorabilia.

First letter

Ninoy wrote Gonzalez for the first time on Dec. 30, 1977. He talked of fighting loneliness and boredom:

"(These) have been my two greatest nemesis. I have sought the help of Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Aguinas Kierkegaard, Proust, Niehbur, Kung and even the more earthly Robin Moores, Harold Robbins and the Wallaces in my never-ending battle against these two vicious enemies. I've changed my specs thrice—my eyesight has so deteriorated I can't recognize people barely (15) feet away. The puzzles you sent me were literally 'hours of fun' and helped me in my struggle.

"I have kept up my physical and mental exercises—running (6 mins., 45 secs. to a mile), push-ups, sit-ups, knee-bends, bullworker, barbells . . . I devote six hours to reading and at least two hours to writing daily. I've completed three manuscripts including my various pleadings and letters to the Supreme Court, Mil(itary) Commission, memos to my lawyers etc. And yet the fight against loneliness and boredom continues.

"There are days when I just sit down and listen to the silence. Tyrants can imprison the vessel of man (but) there is no chain that can prevent the spirit to soar. All that a prisoner has to do is close his eyes and suddenly the doors of freedom are flung open. All one must do is imagine a door, the one in the kitchen of his childhood with an iron handle and a bolt. There is no walled-in room that could not be opened by such a trusted door, provided one were strong enough to suggest that such a door exists."

On blind ambition

"Last year, if you will recall, you sent me John Dean's 'Blind Ambition.' I do not know what force led you to pick the book. Call it ESP or clairvoyance—I needed that book for it proved better than a psychiatric couch. I too was a victim of 'blind ambition' not to **(sic)** long ago. Again, I think you were used by Divine Providence to remind me through Dean's traumatic experience that I must re-order my priorities before it is too late.

"Like Dean, I was assistant to three Presidents: Magsaysay, Garcia and Macapagal. I was barely 21 when RM entrusted me with the grim task of dismantling the communist-led Huk insurgency in the early '50s. In May 1954, I successfully negotiated the surrender of then Huk Supremo Luis Taruc together with some of his 30 field commanders . . . which caused the decline of the insurgency in Luzon for almost a decade.

"It is indeed ironical that after two decades or (23) years after the government awarded me the highest civilian award—the Philippine Legion of Honor—I was convicted of subversion and sentenced to die before a firing squad by the same military establishment that in my salad days could not mint enough medals to do me honor."

Impossible dream

"To the pragmatists, I may indeed be a fool. But I sincerely believe that if our people are presently groaning under the yoke of tyranny, it is because we have bartered our idealism for the crass materialism of this scientific age. We have become like Eunuchs—we know what to do, but have lost the capacity to do it.

"In this age of darkness there are two ways of spreading the light: either be the candle or the mirror that reflect it. There are days when I feel like speaking in a desert: where only stones listen to me, or men with hearts of stone.

"Some well-meaning friends have advised me to give up my seemingly lonely and hopeless struggle for truth and freedom. Some cruel souls even venture to whisper that like a man from La Mancha, I'm all alone. The tragedy of these friends as I see it is that they want to be loved by a virgin but solaced by a whore.

"I do not fear this prison of Marcos, the only prison I fear is the prison of my own making—the prison of fear and self!"

Dictators, corruption

On dictatorship from the Nov. 28, 1978 letter:

"Dictators may be tolerated if a) the people are well fed and economically contended; b) if the dictator is truly well-meaning and incorruptible. But if the people are undergoing economic hardship in the midst of corruption and the enrichment of a few—the critical mass is attained and you have the explosive brew for a genuine revolt."

Ninoy went on to describe how a "handful never had it so good" under Marcos.

In his Jan. 1, 1979 letter, Ninoy said he refused to accept as a fact that the Filipinos are "less patriotic" and "illiterate" so as not to understand history.

He said Filipinos understood the lessons of history, "which has already been proven at the turn of the century by the bolo-wielders of Bonifacio."

"It is therefore my last hope and prayer that our countrymen would be encouraged and inspired by the examples of the Iranian people and would finally transcend petty interests and unite to demand our freedoms. More than history, the Bible tells us that: God helps those who help themselves!"

His June 30, 1979 letter, one of the last letters Ninoy had written in Fort Bonifacio, contained information that he wanted Gonzalez to treat in "strictest confidence."

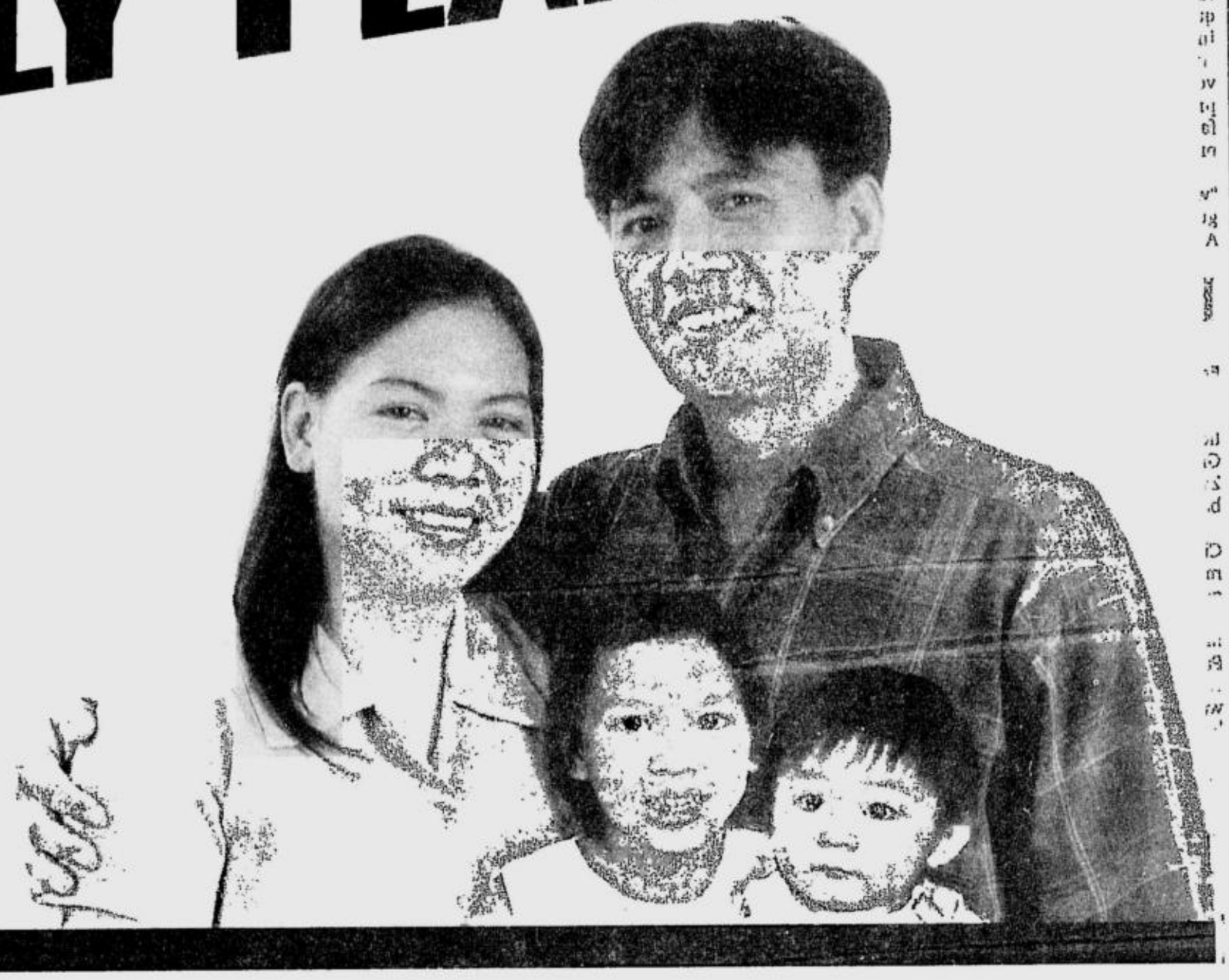
This listed an 11-point program of the United Opposition to oust Marcos and rebuild the nation.

The last letter, dated April 20, 1982 and written two years after Ninoy went into exile in Boston, talked of a "mission" in Malaysia where he had a "fruitful meeting with all our friends in Sabah and Kuala Lumpur."

"Their dedication inspired me to carry on the struggle in the face of seeming indifference on the part of many of our smug countrymen," Ninoy told Gonzalez, whom he called "Tony," "T" or "TG" in the five letters.

Nagsalita na ang taumbayan

Mahalaga sa amin ang FAMILY PLANNING!



Sa isang nationwide survey*

94% ang naniniwalang mahalaga ang Family Planning

76% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa Family Planning

69% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa malayang paggpili ng mga paraang Family Planning

74% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa pambansang budget para sa Family Planning

80% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa mga programang pangkalusugan ng mga kababaihan

*Pulse Asia, Inc., 2-15 Dec. 2000

Suportahan ang Family Planning Program ng Bayan!

Isang public service message ng Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare, Inc. (PNGOC)

Stunningly, Kemp gives up $25 million in salary

Drugs, weight problems weigh down 6-time NBA All-Star

PORTLAND, Ore.—Shawn Kemp, the former NBA All-Star whose career has crumbled because of weight and drug problems, was to be waived Tuesday by the Portland Trail Blazers, according to a published report.

Stunningly, Kemp has agreed to forfeit more than $25 million of the $46.5 million left on his contract, The Oregonian said in its Tuesday editions.

In the agreement, the Blazers will pay Kemp about $20 million over more than 10 years.

It is unknown why Kemp would agree to give up $25 million of his guaranteed contract. His agent, Tony Dutt, was not home Monday night when called by The Associated Press.

The Blazers also could not be reached for comment late Monday.

The move has important financial implications for the Blazers,

KEMP

with the team likely to save at least $40 million in NBA luxury taxes.

Cleveland coach John Lucas, who has counseled Kemp in recent years, said he was shocked at the news.

"It's not often you hear of players giving back money, especially one of this magnitude," Lucas told the newspaper. "It's a statement for the player, just in the regard that he is willing to give back a year of his money."

Kemp, 33, signed a seven-year, $107 million contract in 1997 before he was traded from Seattle to the Cleveland Cavaliers, then traded to the Blazers before the 2000-01 season.

He never regained his All-Star level of play in Portland, averaging 6.3 points in two seasons.

Kemp entered a drug rehabilitation center for cocaine use in April 2001, near the end of his first season as a Trail Blazer. He returned for the 2001-02 season but was suspended for five games in February for failing to comply with his aftercare program.

Kemp appeared in six consecutive All-Star games starting in 1993, five with the Seattle SuperSonics and one with the Cavaliers. *AP*

Benilde, SSC clash today

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
2 p.m.—JRU vs PCU (srs)
4 p.m.—SSC vs CSB (srs)

COLLEGE of St. Benilde and San Sebastian College, teams billed to make the top two spots in the Final Four with relative ease, clash today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Blazers barged into the semifinals after downing San Beda College, 85-78, last week while the defending champion Stags are gunning for a slot in the playoffs in their 4 p.m. grudge match.

Despite his defeat, Woods still impressive

By Doug Ferguson

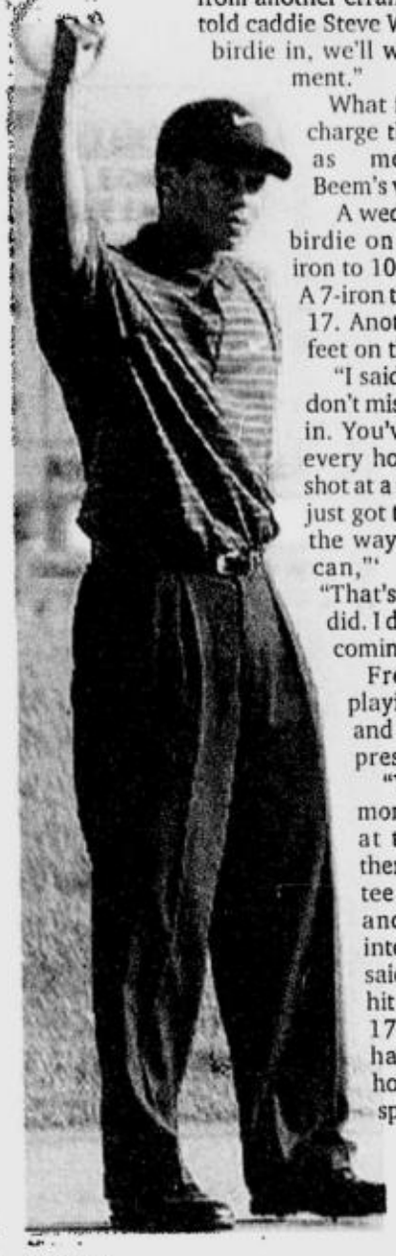
CHASKA, Minnesota—Take away some wretched weather in the third round at Muirfield and two magical shots by Rich Beem at Hazeltine, and Tiger Woods might have a Grand Slam no one could debate.

Twice in the last three years, Woods has come closer to winning all four majors in the same year than the records might reflect.

In the 2000 Masters, two swings led to a double bogey (No. 10) and a triple bogey (No. 12) in the first round at Augusta National. He wound up six strokes behind, then won the final three majors by a combined 23 strokes, including a playoff.

This year was not much different.

"Extremely successful" was how Woods described the season after his most spectacular finish in a major still wasn't good enough to beat Beem in the PGA Championship.



WOODS

After winning the Masters and the U.S. Open by three shots each, hopes of a Grand Slam came to a crashing halt when Woods posted a third-round 81 at the British Open. He had a chance at Hazeltine to become the first player to win an American slam–all three U.S. majors in the same year–until he ran into Beem.

"I had a bad round at the British, but other than that I shot 10-under par the other three rounds," Woods said. "And this tournament, I finished second, one shot back. So, I came close here."

He'll have to wait eight months to start over, but at 26, this might not be the last chance Woods has at a calendar Grand Slam.

Woods didn't intimidate Beem in the final round of the PGA Championship. Still, his final round–or at least his final four holes–might be as impressive as some of his eight major championships.

A three-putt from 12 feet on the 13th hole, followed by a pulled 4-iron off the tee that set up another bogey on the next hole, left Woods six shots out of the lead with four holes to play.

Beem had five holes in front of him, and showed no signs of breaking down. For a guy playing in only his fourth major, Beem was remarkably poised.

Without having to dip into his bag for a swig of antacid, Beem hit every fairway off the tee, missed only one green in regulation and played his last five holes in 1 over.

He wound up winning with one shot to spare.

Woods doesn't win them all, but he never quits trying.

"I sucked it up and got the job done coming in, and that's something I'm very proud of," he said. "I could have easily just bagged it and made pars coming in. Who really cares? But that's not the way I play."

Walking down the 15th fairway, with his ball in the left rough from another errant drive, Woods told caddie Steve Williams, "If we birdie in, we'll win the tournament."

What followed was a charge that was almost as memorable as Beem's victory.

A wedge to 8 feet for birdie on No. 15. An 8-iron to 10 feet on No. 16. A 7-iron to 10 feet on No. 17. Another 7-iron to 4 feet on the last hole.

"I said, 'All right, just don't miss a shot coming in. You've got to birdie every hole. Take it one shot at a time, but you've just got to hit every shot the way you know you can,'" Woods said. "That's exactly what I did. I didn't miss a shot coming in."

Fred Funk was playing with Woods and was equally impressed.

"You think the momentum is gone at that point, but then he hits that bad tee shot on No. 15 and he turns that into a birdie," Funk said. "Every shot he hit coming in on 16, 17 and 18 might have gone in the hole. That's pretty special."

Even better were the two shots from Beem, the kind that make majors so special.

He was clinging to a one-stroke lead over Woods when he tried to reach the green of the 597-yard 11th in two with a fairway metal that is a hybrid of a 5-wood and a 7-wood.

Urging it along with his arms, Beem knew from the roar it was on the green. The ball stopped rolling 6 feet short of the pin, and when his putt dropped the cheers were deafening.

"I didn't think Justin (Leonard) would have the length to get there, so it would have had to have been Rich," said Woods, who was up ahead on the 12th green. "It was a huge roar, so we assumed it was an eagle."

There was no mistaking the other cheer, either.

Beem's 9-iron from 148 yards barely cleared the marsh at the corner of Lake Hazeltine on No. 16, leaving him 35 feet away. The birdie putt was true as soon as it left his club, and Beem was so overjoyed that he heaved his ball into the lake.

Woods was just getting ready to putt on No. 17 when he heard another roar.

"You could see in his eyes that he knew it was Rich," Funk said. "Then he still poured it right in the middle."

The last two holes were the first time Beem played it safe the entire round. He hit the middle of the green for a two-putt par on the 17th, then hit a thin 8-iron to the front of the 18th green for a three-putt that didn't matter.

His victory meant no slam of any kind for Woods this year, Grand or American. And it meant the world to Beem, who has a major game and now the confidence to go with it. *AP*

UAAP board rejects UP protest again, invites Chancellor Roman

By Dennis U. Eroa

"NO new evidence was presented."

Thus explained UAAP President Sonny Paguia on the board's decision to turn down a protest filed by UP-Diliman Chancellor Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman regarding the eligibility of Far Eastern University rookie standout Arwind Santos.

The board affirmed its earlier decision junking the letter-inquiry of UP coach Allan Gregorio questioning the eligibility of Santos.

"Santos is eligible to play. The win-loss record of FEU stays," said Paguia.

The board made its decision yesterday after an emergency meeting at the Philippine Columbian Association along Plaza Dilao in Paco, Manila.

The Tamaraws are sporting a 3-5 win-loss record in a tie with the Adamson Falcons and the Fighting Maroons.

Paguia said that Chancellor Roman will be invited in the next board meeting to clear the issues surrounding the controversy.

"We hope to be able to explain to Chancellor Roman the merit of the board's decision," Paguia said.

In her protest-letter, Roman also asked that she be given the chance to appear before the board in order to prove the "constitutionality" of the Maroons' position.

NO, YOU CAN'T! Ateneo's Raul Albarece (sticking out his finger) seems to be telling that to the INQUIRER's Ernie U. Sarmiento as an unidentified lady approaches Sarmiento to enforce Albarece's order. Sarmiento was sent to cover the UAAP board meeting yesterday at the PCA in Plaza Dilao, Paco. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Roman argued that the board must first amend the UAAP constitution before making a decision on whether Santos' stint with the Cebu Basketball League during the pre-season violated a rule on incoming freshmen.

Yesterday's meeting was marred by an action of a board member identified as Raul Albarece of Ateneo, who tried to prevent INQUIRER chief photographer Ernie U. Sarmiento from taking pictures.

Sarmiento, however, managed to take one shot which showed Albarece in an arrogant pose asking a lady caterer to tell the award-winning photographer that picture-taking was prohibited.

"I warned her not to touch my camera," recalled Sarmiento, who left the meeting after taking the shot to avoid further trouble. "I told her my camera is worth almost half a million pesos."

Informed of the incident, Paguia said: "I didn't know that. I was busy presiding. I'll never prevent a photographer from taking pictures of our meetings."

Living in the past

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE CASE of FEU's Arwind Santos was not entirely lost inside the UAAP board room. What transpired there did not reflect the true state of the league, which was that it exists on a tournament-to-tournament basis.

Where are we, still in the Jurassic Age?

Man, this is the Text Age.

If you ask me, Arwind Santos was not on trial when his case was tried. The one that was tried, again, was the UAAP itself.

When Allan Gregorio, coach of the UP Maroons, inquired through a letter about the eligibility of Arwind Santos, he was in effect inquiring about how effective the league's defense mechanism is against players whose eligibility papers are suspect.

When the UAAP board junked Gregorio's move, what the board did in effect was expose once more the league's decrepit nature on matters of resolving disputes.

Next came Dr. Emerlinda Roman, the UP chancellor, rising on a question of constitutionality.

In her letter of protest, Roman sought an audience with the UAAP board "to prove the unconstitutionality of the board's decision" ruling against Gregorio's inquiry. She cited a provision of the constitution: "An incoming varsity athlete is defined as a fresh high school graduate or transferee. Anyone playing in a commercial league must first establish a one-year residency."

Gregorio had presented proof Arwind Santos played in the CBL (Cebu Basketball League).

Is the CBL a commercial league?

Apparently, it is if you ask Dr. Roman.

But don't tell that to UAAP board members, who upheld yesterday the eligibility of Arwind Santos.

As I said, the issue here is not Arwind Santos but rather, the league's standing in the public eye.

Is the UAAP I know 20 years ago still solid as ever? Or has its foundations, if not its credibility, started to crumble?

Cases such as Santos' will keep haunting the UAAP because of the league's seeming disregard for consistency. Many times in the past, the league got hit by controversies, many of them happening because of policies already overran by events.

The Santos issue and similar cases can be avoided outright if only the league has a permanent secretariat operating on a year-round basis. Sadly, as has been the practice for ages now, the league still exists on a per tournament basis.

New season, new host.

New host, new whims and caprices.

New whims and caprices, new disorders and controversies.

Like a wheel within a wheel, the cycle never ends.

It's about time the UAAP board had woken up from decades of stupor.

The NCAA cagefest is no different, either. By existing on a tournament-to-tournament basis, the NCAA gets struck every now and then by its own dose of controversies almost year in and year out. How many times have games been bungled due to spotty officiating, not to mention quick and decisive solutions from league officials whenever controversies arise?

Here's a tip to the leaders of both leagues: Get a copy of how the PBA (Philippine Basketball Association) works. PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino will be more than willing to give you one each a copy of the PBA's open secret: decisiveness through the years.

Which of the two would first adopt a permanent secretariat is now the so-called 64-dollar question.

Baguio High Nike 3 on 3 champion

BAGUIO CITY—Baguio City National High School finally got one over its long-time archrival St. Louis University Laboratory High School, pulling off a thrilling 12-9 victory on Saturday to rule the Nike 3 on 3 Baguio Leg at the University of Baguio gym here.

Arthur Reyes was a one-man wrecking machine for BCNHS, crushing SLU with his slashing moves and soft touch from the perimeter. He was ably supported by his teammates Edgardo Calara, Jr., Richard Estabillo and Eugene Galang.

BCNHS took full control of the match from start to finish, even as Edmark Bustos pushed SLU to within two points, 9-11, with back-to-back two-pointers in the closing minutes.

The predominantly BCNHS crowd wildly cheered after Reyes sank the final basket, forcing SLU fans to head early to the exit gate.

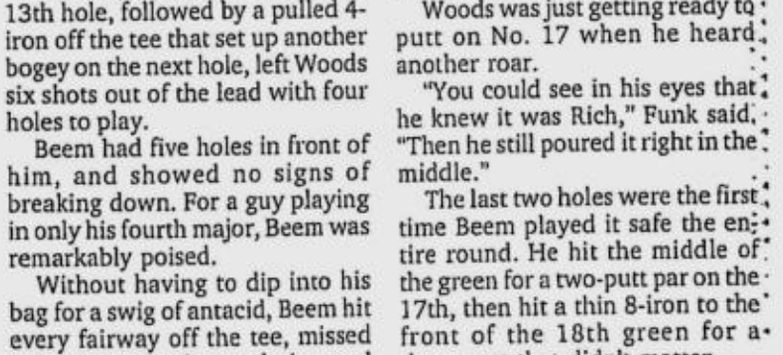
"This victory is sweet for us because we used to be SLU's whipping boys. We are also proud because for the first time in the nine-year history of this tournament, a public school has become a champion," said the diminutive BCNHS coach Alfredo Tolentino.

En route to the finals, BCNHS defeated powerhouse University of Baguio Preparatory High School, which it deemed as the biggest thorn on its side, while SLU trounced Pines Montessori School. Defending champion St. Louis High School-Philex was upset by UP Prep. High School in the quarterfinals.

BCNHS completes the Nike 3 on 3 National Finals cast, as it joins Pampanga champion Don Bosco Academy, Bacolod qualifier University of St. La Salle, Cebu titlist University of Cebu, Cagayan de Oro champ Sacred Heart of Jesus Montessori School and Davao winner Emar Learning Center.

The Metro Manila finalists are International Christian School, Philippine College of Criminology, Jose Abad Santos Memorial School, Xavier School, St. Francis of Assisi-Las Piñas and San Beda College.

The National Finals will be held on Sept. 1 at the Alabang Town Center, with the champion taking home P150,000 worth of Nike products, an elegant trophy and an all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong for five.



BALL BLOCKING
San Diego Padres' Bubba Trammell shields his face running to first as Montreal Expos first baseman Wil Cordero leaps but fails to catch the ball during yesterday's second-inning action in Montreal. Expos third baseman Jose Macias was charged with an error on the play. The Expos won, 4-0. Complete results: AMERICAN LEAGUE—Athletics 8 Indians 1; Devil Rays 7, Orioles 3; Blue Jays 2, Royals 0; Tigers 4, Mariners 3; Twins 7, White Sox 3. NATIONAL LEAGUE—Expos 4, Padres 0; Braves 7, Rockies 6; Giants 3, Marlins 0; Astros 7, Reds 5; Cardinals 7, Pirates 2. AP

CHAMPION'S PRIZE: $150,000

Siodina invited to Japan's richest srs tilt

SIODINA: Dream of a lifetime.

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

WHO said the Filipino golfer has lagged crazily behind when it comes to international play?

Mario Siodina, the almost forgotten maverick parbuster, rewrites local's golf lore on Friday when he tees off in the $600,000 Fanel Golf Classic in a suburb of Tokyo.

He is the first Filipino ever invited to the richest tournament in Asia for seniors.

The onetime President's Cup champion received the invitation to join the tournament for Japan's seniors.

Siodina arrived in Japan 10 days ago to acclimatize himself.

The tournament, billed for three days at the Susono Country Club near the picturesque Mt. Fuji, will also feature the likes of Terry Gale of Australia and Hsie Min Nan of Taiwan, among others.

"This is a rare honor for me," said Siodina, whose name was a by-word in the Eighties before Frankie Miñoza came along. "This is a dream of a lifetime."

Indeed, Siodina was lucky since the senior golfers of Japan had to go through a qualifying tournament to earn precious slots.

The champion will pocket $150,000.

Fanel, the tournament sponsor, is one of the biggest food and cosmetics companies in Japan.

K. Ikamori, president of Fanel, said it has always been his desire to "support all senior people in the world."

Said Ikamori: "The economic prosperity in and out of Japan is all based on senior people's big effort. Without the power of our senior people, there is no prosperous economy in Japan or abroad."

He said his dream is to put up a Senior Tour in Japan rivaling, if not surpassing, the money prizes of the U.S. Senior Tour.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Senior PGA Tour Ford Senior Players Championship, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

U.S. Amateur Open Golf Championship Preview at 11 p.m., First Round tomorrow at 1, p.m. on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day - Hungarian Grand Prix at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

2002 F1 World Championship -Hungarian Grand Prix at 9:45 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Chequered Flag - Hungarian Grand Prix at midnight (r) on Star Sports

Heavyweight champ Ruiz sues King

KING

NEW YORK—Heavyweight champion John Ruiz sued Don King on Monday, saying the promoter was blocking a bout with former champion Mike Tyson that would be the most lucrative fight of his career.

The lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Manhattan alleged that King had refused to let Ruiz fight Tyson until Tyson dropped a $100-million lawsuit he had filed against King in the same court. King had countersued Tyson as well.

Ruiz, the World Boxing Association heavyweight champion, said in the lawsuit that King told Ruiz and a lawyer last Tuesday that they were "traitors" if they did not let King use the leverage of a Tyson-Ruiz fight to get Tyson to drop his lawsuit.

A lawyer for King did not immediately return a telephone message for comment.

The lawsuit said a Tyson-Ruiz matchup would be the 30-year-old boxer's highest profile bout to date and by far his most lucrative. Ruiz, from Chelsea, Massachusetts, is 38-4-1, with 27 knockouts.

"Tyson has a proven, indeed unique, ability to generate box office interest, and thereby revenues," the lawsuit said, adding that Ruiz would likely earn more than $10 million.

The lawsuit came a day after King told The Boston Globe that he would agree to let Ruiz fight Tyson without demanding that Tyson settle his lawsuit against King first. *AP*

Sunday Silence dies

TOKYO —Sunday Silence, the 1989 Kentucky Derby winner, died Monday in Japan from complications of a disease in his left foreleg, his stable spokesman said.

"For the last three days, his condition has been getting worse, and we used a lot of strong medicines," said Eisuke Tokutake, spokesman for the Shadai Stallion Station. "But today, he lay down and couldn't get up."

The horse died of heart failure around 11 a.m. local time (9 p.m. EDT) on Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan.

The stable said last week it was pondering whether to put the 16-year-old horse down. Sunday Silence had developed laminitis — a debilitating disease of the hoof — a little over two weeks ago. *AP*

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Arianne Cerdeña beat Chinese-Taipei's Yun-Yuch Huang, 408 to 383, to retain her Masters title at the Bowling Inn. Also today in 1990, Jun Marquez defeated Erwin Amoranto, 6-1, 6-1, to rule the boys' 14-under class in the Prince Masters at the Acropolis indoor tennis courts.

Nat'l tablenet tilt slated

THE BUTTERFLY-National Table Tennis Age Group Championships will be held Sept. 21-22 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Victor Valbuena, president of the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines, said the tournament would be part of the bases for determining the national ranking of the players this year.

Events to be played are boys singles 10, 14 and 17 years and under: girls 10 and 17 years, and under, men's singles 20 years and under, women singles 20, and 25 years and under, men's singles 30, 40, 50 and 60 years old and under and men's 61 years and above.

Entries will be received at the Tatap office, room 203 RSC Administration Building, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, P Ocampo St. Malate, Manila, on or before Sept. 14, 5 p.m. For inquiries, call tel. 522-1885.

La Salle spikers whip opponents

DE LA SALLE-Lipa's boys and girls teams posted impressive victories over their opponents at the resumption of the Philippine Volleyball League tournament held over the weekend at the De La Salle Greenhills Gym, San Juan.

Fresh from its impressive showing in the opener last weekend, DLS-Lipa's girls 18-under team scored another double, beating Miriam, 25-10, 25-19, 25-18 on Saturday, before coming back to dispose of Colegio de San Agustin, 25-11, 25-19, 23-25, 25-20 (3-1).

The twin kill had DLS-Lipa girls' 18-under team pulling away in the overall standings with four straight wins in the annual tournament being held in cooperation with La Salle Greenhills.

The Lipa-based girls' 13-under team also won at the expense of OB Montessori, 25-7, 25-10, for its second win.

De La Salle-Lipa's boys' team in both the elementary (13-under) and high school (18-under) made the tournament a virtual playground after sweeping past their opponents.

DLS-Lipa's 13-under squad blanked De La Salle-Zobel, 25-13, 25-11 (2-0) on Saturday, and also scored a sweep over Colegio de San Agustin, 25-15, 25-13.

HINGIS ADVANCES
Switzerland's Martina Hingis returns a shot to Israel's Anna Smashnova in their first-round singles match at the Pilot Pen tennis tournament in New Haven, Connecticut on Sunday. Hingis defeated Smashnova in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4.

Young RP bets rule dancefest

YOUNG dance athletes Reiner Mercado and Judith Ann Melencio put the Philippines in the international dancesport map by winning the gold medals in both the junior standard and Latin events of the recent Japan Superstar champions held in Tokyo.

The Mercado-Melencio tandem, the biggest winners of last month's sixth mid-year competitions of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines, had earlier bagged the silver medal in the 15th Singapore Lion City International Championship staged at the Raffles City Convention Center.

Michelle prevails

M&M KART Racing's Michelle Bumgarner prevailed in two Junior Intercon A (JICA) races to steal the show in the Shell-Casino Filipino 2002 Asian Open Zone Karting Championships held recently at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Carmona, Cavite.

Las Piñas derby set Aug. 26, 28

LAS PIÑAS Cockpit's Annual 5-Stag Derby, traditionally the opener of the stagfighting season, will be held Aug. 26 and 28.

Proceeds of the derby will be donated to the Clean and Green project of Las Piñas City Mayor Nene Aguilar.

The last two days of screening and leg banding will be held Aug. 24 and 25 at the LPC, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Submission of weights is on Aug. 26, from 7 a.m. to 12 noon. Interested parties may contact 873-1040 and 871-4345.

Stags will be bracketed into four classifications, assuring participants of fair and balanced matching of entries.

At stake is a guaranteed pot of P500,000, three refrigerators, P5,000 worth of Thunderbird products and trophy to the champion. Entry fee is P11,000. Every participant will also get P2,000 worth of first bet certificate from CF-Parañaque.

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CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WHATEVER happened to the Sports Hall of Fame?

Sad to say, but nothing much has been heard of this landmark measure after much fanfare and years of dreaming, planning and working. Recall that in 1999, House Bill No. 1459, in consolidation with Senate Bill No. 1586, created the Sports hall of Fame. Its final version was approved by a bicameral committee chaired by Sen. Robert Jaworski and former Rep. Ranjit Shahani and signed into law by then President Joseph Estrada.

The Hall of Fame was envisioned to showcase the spectacular triumphs of the Filipino athletes, coaches and trainers in the sporting field while, seeking at the same time, to institutionalize sports as a matter of national pride and serving as a symbol of the aspirations of the Filipino youth. There's also an eye on the future because these harvests of successes in the past will be expanded to include additional collection of medals, trophies, photographs, videos and other memorabilia in the Olympics, Asian Games, Southeast Asian Games or similar regional meets.

It's also a perfect place to see and appreciate the extraordinary exploits of Filipino sports heroes such as boxing legends Pancho Villa and Flash Elorde, bowling champion Paeng Nepomuceno, Olympic swimmer Teofilo Yldefonso, tennis great Totoy Ampon, basketball immortal Carlos Loyzaga and world billiards title-holder Efren "Bata" Reyes.

Like any good project, the Hall of Fame was conceived by top sports leaders from both the private and government sectors led by San Miguel Corp. big boss Danding Cojuangco and former PSC chair and Manila Mayor Mel Lopez, who, if memory serves, even offered for free the family-owned 47-hectare Pacific Heights in cool and invigorating Tagaytay City as a site for the Hall of Fame.

"Not for anything else," Lopez said then, "but I'm making this offer purely for the benefit of the Filipino athletes and their coaches and trainers." Politics has nothing to do with the offer, Lopez stressed, "because I am no longer interested, much less harboring any political ambition in the future."

Rico, Lito top fishing

RICO Gueco, four-time Angler of the Year (AOY), and teammate Lito Tanseco won the Atlanta Industries light sportfishing to on the spinning rod and reel tackle set from Alex Tackle Shop, Past AOY Elvin Reyes and BASS president Benedict Lim won second place team honors.

Overaall AOY leader and PGFF president Rey Buencamino with teammate Amado Dy trailed third.

SIX DIGIT (in exact order) **SUERTRES** 6 5 2 / 8 2 1 / 2 6 5

LOTTO 6/42 Luzon 2 14 23 25 33 41 / Vis / Min 2 11 15 17 26 28

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

RP 5 rips Chinese-Taipei

By June Navarro

GAME TODAY (Philsports)
6:30 p.m.—FedEx vs Alaska

THE SELECTA-RP Team went full throttle in the second quarter to drub the visiting Chinese-Taipei national team, 95-59, last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Asi Taulava punctured the Chinese interior defense at will, banging in 18 of his game-high 22 points in the first half as the Nationals tore the game wide open.

The Nationals mounted an ego-shattering 27-5 attack in the second quarter through the handiwork of Taulava, and the Seigle brothers—Andy and Danny—that left the Taiwanese vulnerable throughout.

"The team needed this win. We're using this pair of tune-up games to get a grip on the amateur style of play," said RP coach Jong Uichico.

After Lei Tien's jumper made it 24-29, the Nationals silenced the Chinese for more than six minutes and built a commanding 49-26 advantage entering the halftime break.

At the height of the Nationals' devastating run, the Taiwanese only went 2-of-16 from the field and 3-of-9 from the three-point territory that turned the match into a one-sided affair.

Chinese-Taipei missed the services of their top gunner, Hsin An Chen, a 6-foot-4 slasher currently trying his luck in the NBA with the Sacramento Kings.

Chen was reportedly joining the Chinese-Taipei national team in its trip to the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea next month.

The Nationals, however, couldn't care less as Uichico's troops never wavered in crushing the Taiwanese to smithereens up to the last minute.

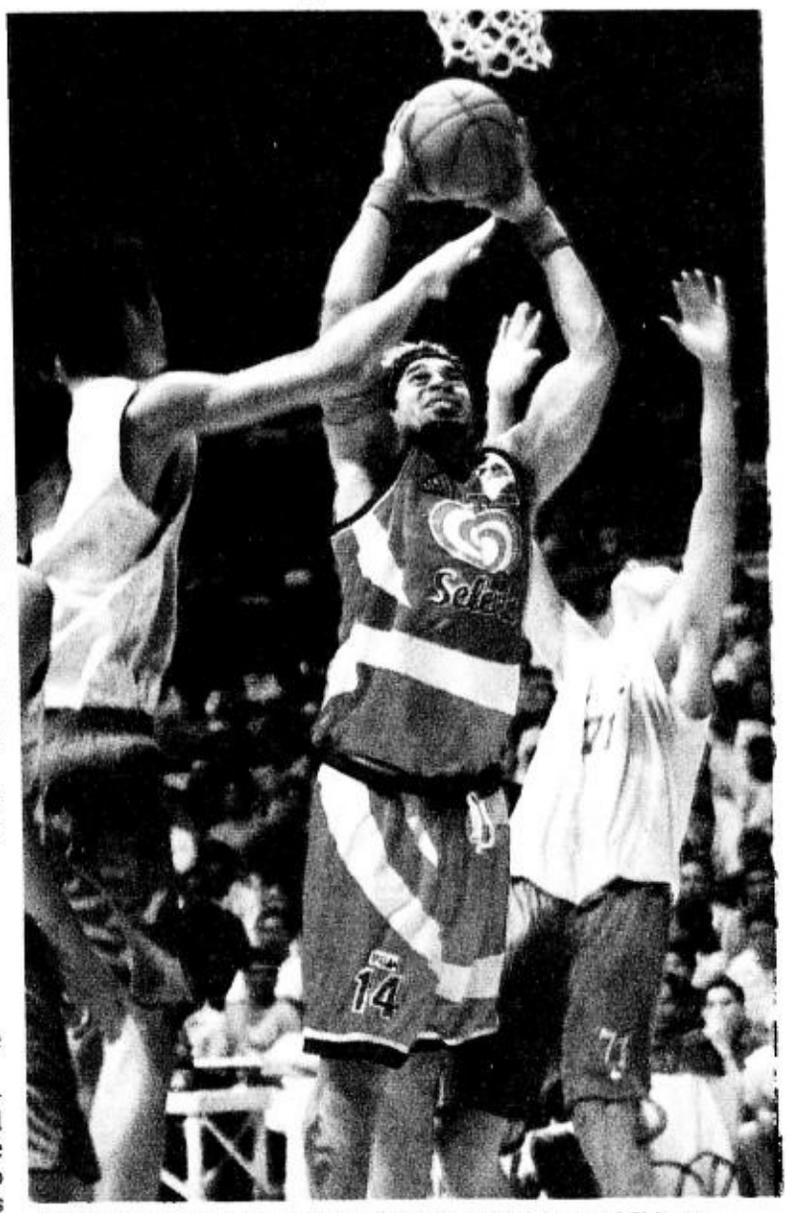
The Nationals face Chinese-Taipei again tomorrow at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

Scores:

SELECTA RP—Taulava 22, Menk 15, Ildefonso 14, A. Seigle 9, Castillo 9, Carlaso 7, Duremdes 6, Hatfield 4, D. Seigle 4, Pennisi 3, Racela 2, Jackson 0, Fernandez 0.

CHINESE-TAIPEI 59—Tien 18, H. Chou 13, Lee 6, Chiu 4, Chen 4, Lee 3, Yang 3, T. Wu 2, C. Wu 2, Tseng 2, S. Chou 2, Ho 0.

Quarters: 22-21, 49-26, 72-35, 95-59



ASI Taulava of RP-Selecta (middle) defies the defense of Chinese-Taipei's Lee Chi Yi and Tien Li to score underneath during their tune-up game last night. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

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UM, St. Clare beat foes

GAMES FRIDAY
2:30 p.m.—Univ. of Makati vs AUF
4:00 p.m.—PLP vs UM
5:30 p.m.—St. Clare vs Arellano

DEFENDING champion University of Manila opened its bid for back-to-back titles with a smashing 86-63 win over University of Makati at the start of the 2nd National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (NAASCU) basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

Jessie Macasa, a 5-foot-9 veteran of commercial leagues, and Louie Aquino shared scoring honors with 17 points apiece for the Sampaloc-based team of coach Loreto Tolentino and manager lawyer Ernesto de los Santos. Bobby Gutierrez added 15 points, while Arthur Cummings contributed 10 points.

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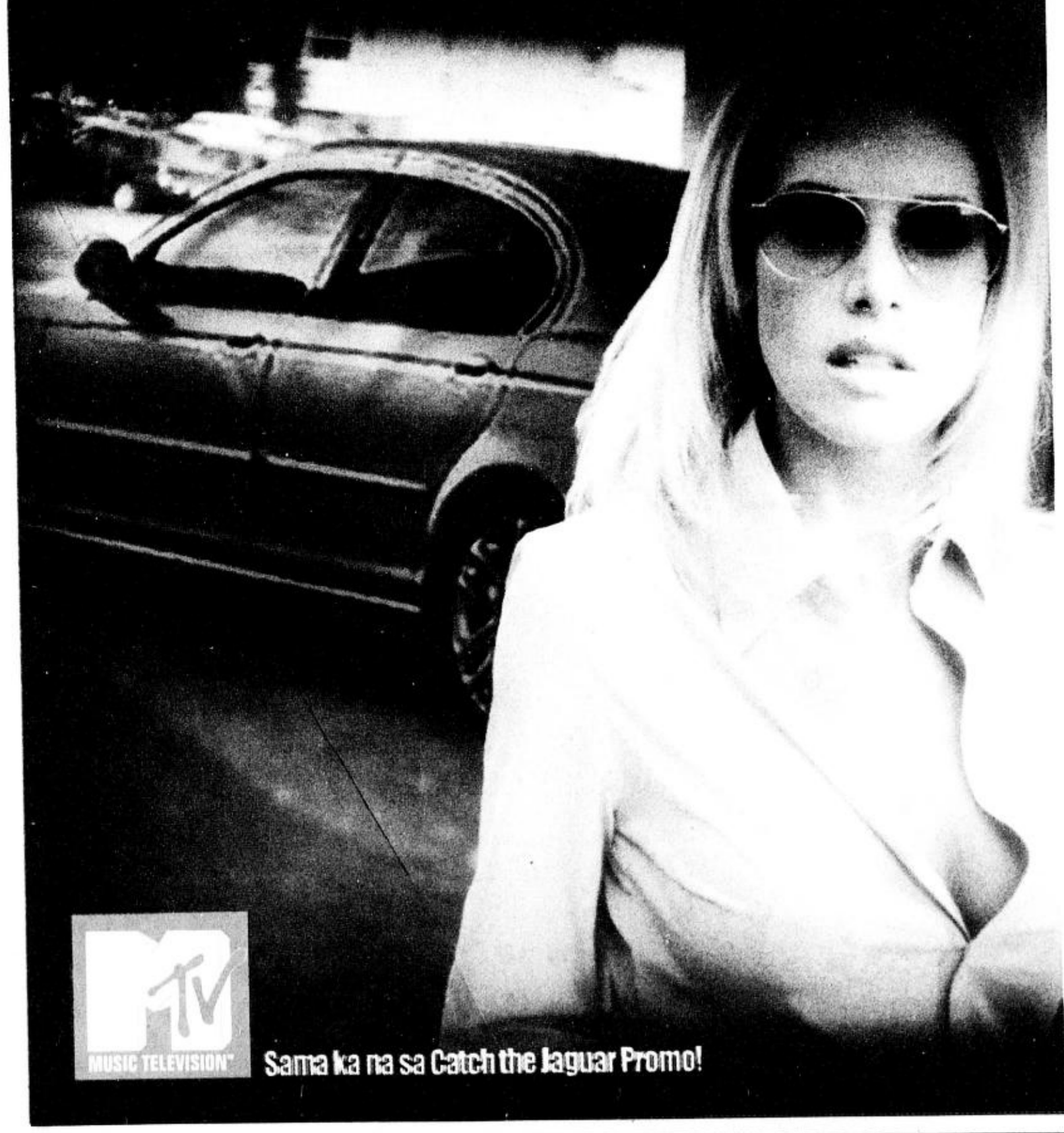

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4) There will be ten (10) weekly draws to be held at the MTV Philippines office. Two (2) entries will be picked from the weekly draw with one entry winning one (1) cellular phone and the other entry winning one (1) handheld organizer. Non-winning entries in the weekly draws will still qualify for the grand draw.

5) Promo period is from August 11, 2002 to October 25, 2002. Deadline for submission of entries for the grand draw in all drop boxes is on October 25, 2002. Likewise, entries that will be mailed to P.O. Box 1696 must be postmarked no later than October 25 2002 in order to qualify.

6) Grand draw will be held on November 8, 2002 at the MTV Philippines office. One (1) winner will be drawn to win the grand prize - the Jaguar X-Type.

7) All winners will be notified through a telegram. List of winners will be published in a newspaper of national circulation.

- Send in as many entries to increase your chances of winning.

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■ BARE EYE: Beatification process under way for Batangueño bishop /26

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ 10 of 12 minors moved out of Death Row /26

Ex-aides to testify vs Alma

By Christian V. Esguerra

MORENO. Her husband says she had 'trysts.'

FOUR former aides of Alma Moreno. Plane tickets. Airline manifests. Hotel bills.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez will present these in court as part of his petition to annul his 12-year marriage to the sexy actress, according to Marquez's lawyer Francisco Chavez.

The lawyer said the aides—three women and a gay man—had accompanied Moreno in her alleged trysts with Julian Say, 31, a disc jockey in Cebu.

"We have been working on these witnesses for some months," Chavez told the INQUIRER. "More than a month ago, they finally agreed to testify."

Chavez said Marquez's camp would also present in court copies of plane tickets and airline manifests that would supposedly prove that Moreno and Say had been regularly meeting.

EX-AIDES/ p. A26

'Genocide'

By Leila Salaverria

THE FIGHT between the Metro Manila Development Authority and sidewalk vendors continues to intensify as both sides refuse to back down.

Building on the "Fernando as Hitler" theme, the vendors yesterday said the MMDA is committing "genocide" with its operations against vendors.

"What he is doing to our fellow vendors is genocide because he is wittingly or unwittingly killing our source of livelihood," the Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod (KPML) said in a statement.

The vendors said they would hold a rally for every clearing operation affecting them, even as MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando ruled out a dialogue or compromise with them.

About 50 members of the KPML rallied in front of the MMDA office in Makati yesterday, bringing with them rotting fruits and vegetables to show what the clearing operations were doing to their livelihood.

A weeping Yakult (health drink) vendor yesterday said she was merely resting from hours of walking under an overpass when MMDA personnel confiscated her rolling cart. She said she was not obstructing traffic.

"What have I done wrong?" she asked.

Don Pangan of KPML said they will continue to hold rallies as long as the MMDA carries on with its clearing operations.

Fernando said in a news conference on Monday that he is no Hitler, and he suggested that a more apt description of his management style is needed.

The vendors said the MMDA chair should not be so hasty in its operations and the two sides should talk first.

GENOCIDE/ p. A26

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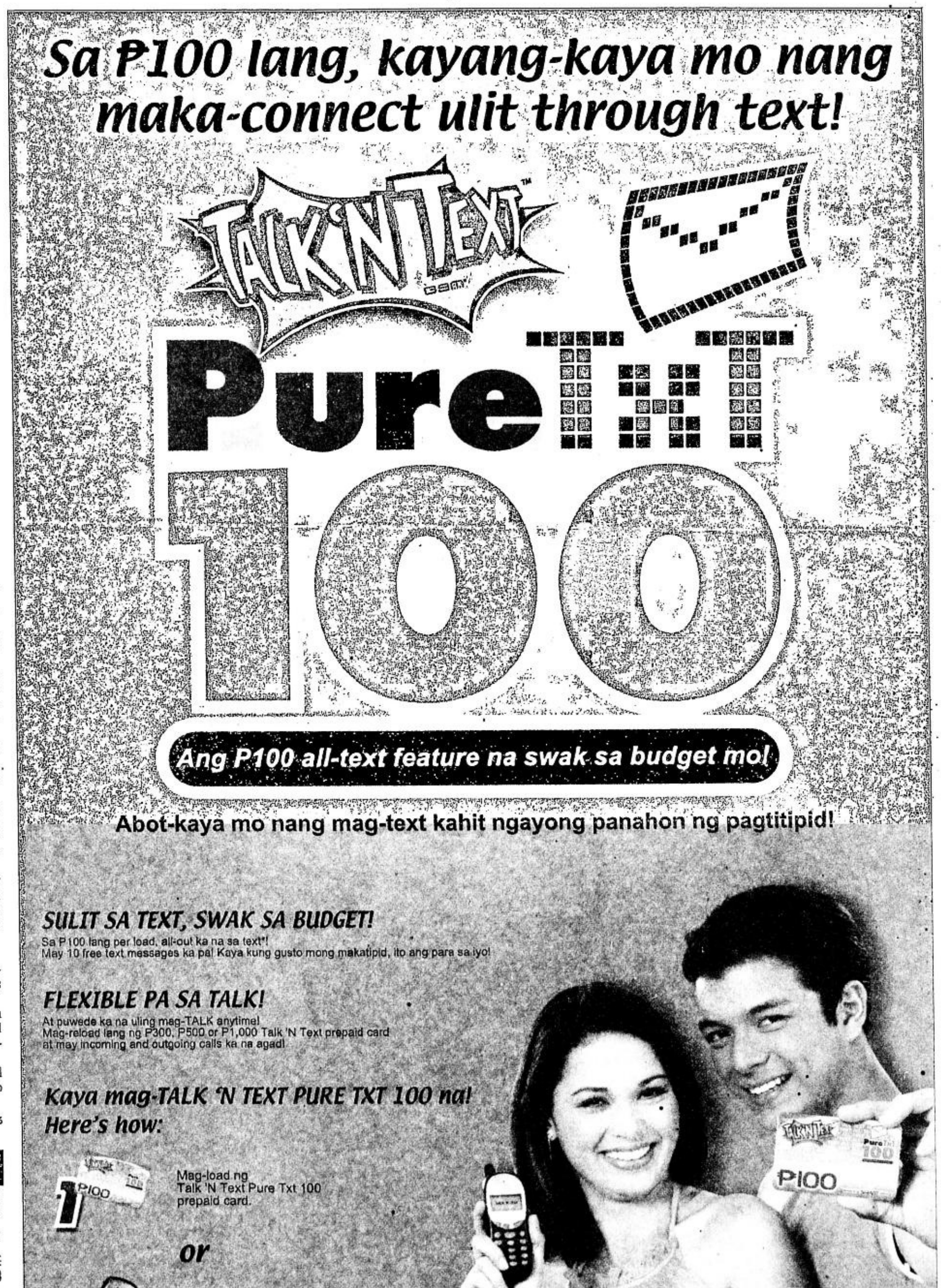

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WEDNESDAY AUG 21 912-8083

10 minors moved out of Death Row

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRISON officials have finally moved 10 of 12 youth offenders out of Death Row at the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa.

The minors were transferred to the medium security compound at about 1 p.m. Monday, about three hours after prison officials received a copy of the Supreme Court resolution ordering them to take the youth offenders out of Death Row, according to Joselito Fajardo, NBP officer in charge.

Fajardo said two other inmates would be kept in Death Row until the NBP has ascertained that they were indeed minors when they supposedly committed their crimes.

Those who were transferred are facing charges of rape, murder, and robbery with homicide. Fajardo said their ages now range between 20 and 22.

Sen. Francisco Pangilinan yesterday visited the NBP to check on the conditions of the minors who had been languishing in Death Row with hardened criminals pending the result of the Supreme Court's review of their cases.

Fajardo said the senator promised to push for the abolition of the death penalty law and to provide assistance to youth offenders.

Like other inmates in Death Row, the 12 youth offenders were prohibited from leaving their cells and were not allowed to receive visitors aside from members of their immediate families, according to prison officials.

In the medium security compound, they will be allowed to join educational and recreational activities in jail, the officials said. They will also be allowed "free movement" inside the compound from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Cops close in on 3 more suspects

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICEMEN yesterday said they were closing in on three more members of the teenage gang that abducted, tortured, and raped a 14-year-old girl in Taguig last Friday.

Insp. Virgilio Pagtama, chief of the town's Station Investigation Division, said he and his men have identified the whereabouts of the suspects who are all residents of Barangay Bagumbayan.

"We will arrest them as soon as the court issues a warrant of arrest," Pagtama said.

Policemen now have in their custody a 17-year-old alias Alien who was allegedly one of the four teeners who raped the girl twice in three months. The first rape allegedly happened on May 23.

'City Hall not playing favorites'

By Jerome Aning

CURBING fuel smuggling and underground operations in the Pandacan oil depot complex are among the reasons why the Manila city government permitted some small oil firms to resume operations briefly.

City legal officer Melchor Monsod said this yesterday in reaction to accusations that Mayor Lito Atienza played favorites when City Hall granted Jetti Supply Distribution Inc. and Philippine Prosperity Chemicals Inc. special permits to operate for 90 days.

"There's no favoritism," Monsod said. "The closure orders earlier served on Jetti, Prosperity and all the small oil firms in Pandacan still stand. The two are only permitted to empty their tanks within 90 days at the most."

He said Jetti and Prosperity do not have pipelines like the big oil companies so the emptying of the tanks has to be done by container trucks.

"If they earn in the process of getting out their oil, I won't begrudge them that," he said. "They just have to make sure that the tanks are empty within three months."

Jetti maintains six tanks in a depot operated by the Nagtahan Terminals Inc. on Beata Street. Each tank has a 1 million-liter capacity.

Philippine Prosperity has a gas tank on nearby F. Manalo Street.

Rob suspect slain, officer hurt in shootout

By Alcuin Papa

A SUSPECTED holdup man was shot dead while a Central Police District lawman was wounded in a shootout yesterday morning in Quezon City.

Police said Johnie Faltado, 42, of Makati City, was killed on the spot, while PO1 Darwin Oraya was grazed in the arm during the gun battle.

Police also arrested five suspected members of the Waray-Waray robbery group, identified as Joel Aguirre, 24, a tricycle driver, Joey Aguirre, 20, Villavencio Gonzales, 24, Christian Gonzales, 20, and a 14-year-old boy, all residents of West Fairview, Quezon City.

According to initial reports, Lagro policemen learned of an ongoing holdup on Iris Street, West Fairview at about 1 a.m. yesterday.

A mobile patrol unit was dispatched to the area. About 30 minutes later, the patrolmen encountered the suspects who were on board a vehicle. Without warning, the suspects fired at the patrol car, prompting the lawmen to fire back.

When the smoke cleared, Faltado lay dead, police said.

Police said the unidentified gang leader, said to be armed with an M-16 Armalite, escaped.

Recovered from the suspects were a .38-caliber pistol and a shotgun.

But in an interview, the suspects denied they were part of a holdup gang.

"We don't know who the dead suspect is and the police never recovered any guns from us when we were arrested," said Gonzales. He said they were sleeping in a hut when police walked in and arrested them.

Beatification process under way for Batangueño bishop

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

YOU are not from Lipa City or Tayabas so you probably haven't heard of this.

The Sacred Congregation for the Cause of Saints in Rome recently allowed the study of the life, writings and pastoral care of the Most Rev. Alfredo Maria Aranda Obviar for his possible elevation to the rank of Blessed.

You also probably don't know Bishop Obviar.

This man of God, who died in October 1978, was founder of the Institute of the Missionary Catechists of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (MCST). He was Auxiliary Bishop of Lipa and was declared first residential bishop of the Diocese of Lucena in 1969.

He was serving as chaplain of Carmel of Lipa when the Blessed Virgin reportedly made an apparition to a novice there in 1948.

It's said that Bishop Obviar was next transferred to Lucena for him to "keep quiet" about the said apparition.

***

Until today, not a few Lipeños continue to wonder why Bishop Obviar had to be pulled out of the Lipa Carmelite Chapel, reportedly the site of a series of miraculous shower of rose petals, at the height of the holy controversy.

There were those who said he was "very sympathetic to the nuns."

Anyway, while in Lucena, Bishop Obviar made full use of his remaining days as he presided over the rapid growth of the Missionary Cathechists of St. Therese which, other than its Formation Houses and Generalate in Tayabas, Quezon, now has 59 local and 12 foreign missions in different parts of the world.

Your reporter here had the chance to visit the MCST compound in Tayabas last summer with some dear friends from Lipa who took the trip to offer prayers and thanksgiving at the tomb of Bishop Obviar.

You see, it's never easy for us to believe in miraculous help or healing coming from blessed forces.

But all I had needed was a walk through the rooms that keep the bishop's memorabilia, including his bed and dinner table, to start reconsidering this attitude.

A line in a prayer for the beatification of Monsignor Obviar describes him "as an example of humble obedience to the Church of faithful endurance and suffering, fired with filial love for Virgin Mary."

***

An afternoon tour of the bishop's living place bared what a deeply pious, simple and very dedicated soldier of God he was.

The bed was hard and bare, the other wares and utensils likewise showing what a strict, disciplined holy life he had led. The old shoes, simple slippers, wornout luggage appeared like they belonged to a poor farmer.

As the remaining pamphlets and random remnants of his priestly studies would reveal, his love of God was anchored on two great virtues: Humility and Fortitude.

The solemn visit proved to be very moving.

Before that visit, I had talked to friends and other new acquaintances in Lipa who would readily swear that Bishop Obviar has been very generous to them.

I could not truly fathom what they had been saying.

Now, this would sound both naive and corny. But I myself must confess that an impossible and very intriguing problem, which had me nearly giving up, vanished into thin air the week after we prayed at Bishop Obviar's grave.

Both of my friends who accompanied me in that last visit to the Obviar museum and shrine in Tayabas claimed they have also been rewarded.

They have scheduled another thanksgiving trip.

***

The series of activities supporting the Obviar beatification started on Aug. 10 with the blessing and inauguration of the Bishop Alfredo Obviar Center, owned by the Dolor family and situated at SLD Bldg., 2008 P. Torres St., in Lipa City; followed by the unveiling of a marker of his former residence amid the ruins of the Aranda ancestral residences in the same city. Devotees capped the day with a visit to Bishop Obviar's private chapel.

Bishop Obviar's personal memorabilia and records will be on display at the center for public viewing.

The organization supporting the cause for the beatification of the late bishop is called the MAKA-Obviar (Mga Angkan at Kababayan ni Obispo Obviar), a brainchild of Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales of the Diocese of Lipa.

This organization is engaged in an information campaign centering on Bishop Obviar's ministry and life and "targeting fellow Batangueños, many of whom do not know anything yet about Bishop Obviar."

Indeed, the Tayabas shrine continues to receive thankful testimonies from people whose prayers have been heard through the intercession of Bishop Obviar.

If, through the mercy of God, a favor has been granted to you through Bishop Alfredo Obviar, please inform the Missionary Cathechists of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus, 4327 Tayabas, Quezon, tel. (042) 793-2990, or the MCST Convent, 93 Alley 1, Proj. 6, 1100, Quezon City, tel. 926-2110.

Pregnant woman stabbed 17 times

A FOUR-MONTH pregnant woman was killed by suspected drug users who stabbed her 17 times early yesterday morning.

Rosalinda Badeo, 32, of Sunflower Street, Barangay Central, Quezon City.

Police said Badeo was walking home when she was attacked at about 3 a.m. in front of the Napocor gate on BIR Road, Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City.

Three still unidentified men appeared and stabbed her, killing her on the spot. The suspects fled.

Policemen said the suspects could be drug-crazed residents of the area and that the victim was attacked without provocation.

Alcuin Papa

'Genocide'

From p. A25

But Fernando yesterday said a dialogue would accomplish nothing.

"There is no end to dialogues like that," Fernando said in Filipino. "Nothing would change anyway. We also can't have a compromise."

The MMDA chair also hit back at the protesting vendors who refuse to leave the sidewalks.

"We can't let chaos reign in the sidewalks," he said. "There's a whole society to think about. *Hindi sila ang sentro ng mundo* (The world does not revolve around the vendors)."

He said poverty is not an excuse for vendors to violate the law.

"Just because you're poor doesn't mean that you are exempt from following the law," he said.

But vendors continued to denounce what they described as Fernando's "repressive, violent, inhumane and Hitler-like operations."

The plan to deputize security guards in the fight against illegal vendors also drew flak from the KPML. The group said the move would merely protect the "rich" who own the buildings the guards are protecting.

Ex-aides to testify...

From p. A25

Hotel billing statements would also show that the two often stayed together in hotels in Cebu and in Manila, the lawyer said.

Marquez, whose current girlfriend is Kris Aquino, yesterday filed a revised petition for annulment before a Parañaque regional trial court.

In the 15-page petition, the mayor urged Judge Helen Ricafort to dissolve his marriage, saying Moreno is psychologically incapable of performing her marital obligations.

Besides her alleged affair with Say, Moreno has supposedly been indifferent to Marquez and their children and often tried to avoid the family's gatherings, the mayor claimed.

She also emptied a savings account containing P1 million and spent US$11,000 in one shopping spree using Marquez's credit card, Chavez said.

Marquez is asking the court to grant him custody over their children—Yeoj, Win-Win, VJ, and Em-Em.

He is also seeking at least P1 million in moral damages and lawyer's fees from Moreno.

Aquino, daughter of former President Corazon Aquino, last week flew to the US to take "a break" after Moreno had confronted her in a hospital in Muntinlupa. She returned yesterday morning.

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EMBASSY OF JAPAN
ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING TOURIST AND VISITING RELATIVE VISAS
The new system will be introduced for the convenience of the applicants. Beginning 02 September 2002, individuals applying for TOURIST and VISITING RELATIVE VISAS may do so directly at the designated windows.
This change is only relevant to those individuals applying in Manila.
Accordingly, the DROP BOX SYSTEM will be TERMINATED on 30 August 2002.
Please visit our website for more visa-related information:
http://www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

For screening times, call 729-7bbb
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 TRIPLE X	1 LILO & STITCH 2 TRIPLE X	1 MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	1 INSOMNIA 12:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	1 TRIPLE X
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY	3 TRIPLE X 2:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	2 MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	2 TRIPLE X 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	2 TRIPLE X
3 GAMITAN	4 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS 5 THE SWEETEST THING	GARY V: HITS @ ONSTAGE - SEP. 6,20, 26 & 27	3 LILO & STITCH 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	3 INSOMNIA 4 LILO & STITCH
4 UNFAITHFUL	6 INSOMNIA 7 UNFAITHFUL	MITCH VALDEZ ROCKS! - AUG. 29 - 9PM	4 THE SWEETEST THING 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20 5 UNFAITHFUL 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20	5 SWEETEST THING

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest

FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	SWEETEST THING
2 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
3 (DTS)	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 GOLD (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
6 GOLD (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	INSOMNIA
8	GAMITAN
9	LILO & STITCH
10	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana Cinema

TEL. 551 63 87

1	GAMITAN
2	TRIPLE X
3	BIGLANG LIKO

stармall Movies

(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	GAMITAN
3	INSOMNIA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
5	BIGLANG LIKO

METROPOLIS star

tel 850.4285

1	INSOMNIA
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3	TRIPLE X
4	GAMITAN
5	HUMAN EATER
6	SEX & ZEN
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA

THX

(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	TRIPLE X

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	D' URAGONS
2	WINDTALKERS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC

tel 930.9515

1	
2	GAMITAN
3	

Spring

(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	
A	

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	GAMITAN
2	TRIPLE X
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	INSOMNIA
5	MORE PANTS IN THE ANTS
6	GAMITAN
7 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
8 (SDDS)	SWEETEST THING
9 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	GAMITAN
2	GAMITAN
3	SWEETEST THING
4 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
5	SEX & ZEN
6 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
7 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
8	BIGLANG LIKO
9	D' URAGONS

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	SEX & ZEN
5 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
6	GAMITAN
7 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
8	BIGLANG LIKO

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	TRIPLE X
2	INSOMNIA
3 (DTS)	SEX & ZEN
4	GAMITAN
5 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	GAMITAN

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	GAMITAN

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	SEX & ZEN EVA

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	TRIPLE X
2	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
3	GAMITAN

Prima

(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto

SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
2	SEX & ZEN
3	RESERVE
4	GAMITAN
5	RESERVER

New Divisoria Mall

DIVISORIA CINEMA

tel 244.4619

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED
3	CLOSED
4	CLOSED
5	CLOSED
6	CLOSED

FRC Cinema

Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma

TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67

1	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN

CitiMall

(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	GAMITAN
2	SORORITY BOYS
3 (DTS)	TRIPLE X

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SORORITY BOYS
2 (DTS)	GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
4	SWEETEST THING

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	SWEETEST THING
2 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
3 (DTS)	SORORITY BOYS
4	GAMITAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	D' URAGONS
2	8 LEGGED FREAKS
3	TRIPLE X
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	SWEETEST THING
3 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
4 (DTS)	8 LEGGED FREAKS

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
2	RESERVE
3	BIGLANG LIKO
4 (DTS)	GAMITAN

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3 (DTS)	SORORITY BOYS
4	BIGLANG LIKO
5	MAPUPULANG ROSAS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	GAMITAN
2	TRIPLE X
3	BIGLANG LIKO

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249-2558

1	BIGLANG LIKO
2	TRIPLE X
3	GAMITAN

Olivarez Tagaytay

tel (046) 413.0311

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BIGLANG LIKO
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep

(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	GAMITAN
2	TRIPLE X
3	TRIPLE X

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LILO & STITCH
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	BIGLANG LIKO
4	TRIPLE X

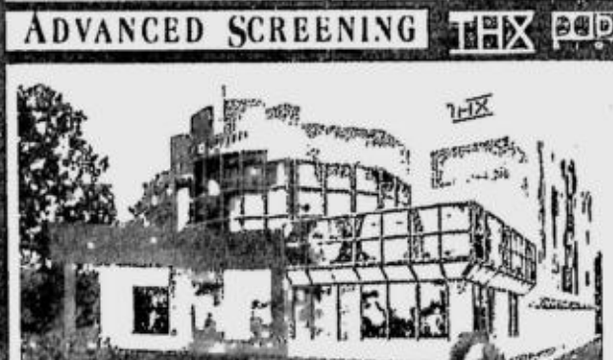
Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3 (DTS)	ABOUT A BOY
4	SORORITY BOYS

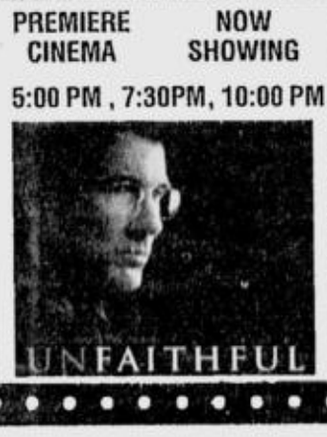
*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING

5:00 PM , 7:30PM, 10:00 PM



SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173868

1	HUMAN EATER
2	8 LEGGED FREAKS
3	TRIPLE X
4	LILO & STITCH
5	INSOMNIA
6	GAMITAN
7	SWEETEST THING
8	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

SM CENTERPOINT

7140522 -7161416

1	GAMITAN
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	INSOMNIA
4	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	TRIPLE X
6	BIGLANG LIKO
7	LILO & STITCH
8	SWEETEST THING
9	UNFAITHFUL
10	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	INSOMNIA
2	HUMAN EATER
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	TRIPLE X
5	LILO & STITCH
6	GAMITAN
7	TRIPLE X
8	UNFAITHFUL
9	D' URAGONS
10	SEX & ZEN
11	SWEETEST THING
12	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	LILO & STITCH
2	TRIPLE X
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	SWEETEST THING
5	INSOMNIA
6	TRIPLE X
7	WINDTALKERS
8	HUMAN EATER
9	GAMITAN
10	SEX & ZEN
11	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
12	UNFAITHFUL

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1	TRIPLE X
2	LILO & STITCH
3	TRIPLE X
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
6	WINDTALKERS
7	HUMAN EATER
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY
9	GAMITAN
10	INSOMNIA
11	SWEETEST THING
12	SEX & ZEN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	GAMITAN
4	HUMAN EATER
5	INSOMNIA
6	LILO & STITCH
7	SWEETEST THING
8	TRIPLE X

SM SOUTHMALL

8068888

1	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
2	LILO & STITCH
3	TRIPLE X
4	INSOMNIA
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	HUMAN EATER
7	GAMITAN
8	TRIPLE X
9	UNFAITHFUL
10	SWEETEST THING

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	TRIPLE X
3	LILO & STITCH
4	GAMITAN
5	BIGLANG LIKO
6	ORANGE COUNTY
7	STUART LITTLE 2
8	HIGH CRIMES

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	GAMITAN
2	CLOSED
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	TRIPLE X
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	LILO & STITCH
7	CLOSED
8	MEGIDDO

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	TRIPLE X
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	LILO & STITCH
4	BIGLANG LIKO
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	GAMITAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8284975

1	GAMITAN
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	TRIPLE X
4	LILO & STITCH

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	TRIPLE X
	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
3	GAMITAN
4	INSOMNIA

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	TRIPLE X
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	LILO & STITCH
4	GAMITAN
5	POWERPUFF GIRLS
6	STUART LITTLE 2

SM BICUTAN

1	
2	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
3	
4	

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
2	
3	
4	

THE PODIUM CINEMA

16 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

633-8976

LILO & STITCH

11:00 FS/11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/ 9:05/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:25 END

TRIPLE X

11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:45 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

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MOVIEWORLD

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633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	TRIPLE X
2	TRIPLE X
3	THE SWEETEST THING
4	INSOMIA
5	GAMITAN
6	UNFAITHFUL
7	SEX-ZEN/HUMAN EATER
8	LILO & STITCH
9	KILLING ME SOFTLY
10	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

Ermita

536 -7809- 12

1	TRIPLE X
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	GAMITAN
6	LILO & STITCH
7	INSOMIA

Metro East -

Marcos hway 687- 8193 / 8280

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	THE SWEETEST THING
3	MORE ANTS.../SEX-ZEN
4	LILO & STITCH
5	TRIPLE X
6	INSOMIA
7	GAMITAN
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Novaliches

935- 3229 - 30

1	SEX-ZEN/KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	TRIPLE X
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	LILIO & STITCH
6	INSOMIA
7	UNFAITHFUL
8	GAMITAN

Imus

471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	TRIPLE X
2	THE SWEETEST THING
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	INSOMIA
5	GAMITAN
6	LILO & STITCH

Bacolod

441- 0453 / 0459

1	TRIPLE X
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	LILO & STITCH
4	HIGH CRIMES
5	THE URAGONS
6	ABOUT A BOY

Iloilo

336- 8077 - 78

1	TRIPLE X
2	STUART LITTLE
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	LILO & STITCH
	ANG GALING-GALING/GAMITAN

Star Mills-

San Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961 5318 / 5270

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	GAMITAN
3	UNFAITHFUL
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	TRIPLE X
6	

malabon citisquare- soon to open.

Late Night Screening on Aug. 17 - 18, 2002 Friday & Saturday - 11:00 p.m. @ Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

how-2-reach-us:

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http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

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'Mega Event' worth the 25-year wait

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

MEGASTAR SHARON Cuneta's "Mega Event" concert lived up to its name.

ABS-CBN, which mounted the show, apparently did not scrimp the budget. The show had a first-rate musical director, a philharmonic orchestra, a fab stage design in the biggest concert venue, the best arrangements, and the biggest music stars.

Sharon did what no other local solo artist had done before: fill up the 20,000-seater Araneta Coliseum for two consecutive nights.

"Only Sharon Cuneta can do this," noted my seatmate, fashion designer **Frederick Peralta.**

The Sharonians as well as many others came. Most of the fans apparently have followed Sharon's career through the past 25 years, from her early hit single, "Mr. DJ," to her most recent award-winning performance in the movie "Magkapatid."

There was mega-traffic Saturday night on Edsa, caused by the payday weekend mega-sale in the malls. Which means we missed the "Mr. DJ" overture by Prof. **Ryan Cayabyab** and the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra.

"The first time I heard it, I cried," Sharon said in an interview with the INQUIRER a few weeks before the concert.

"Perhaps because she realized this was the reason it all started," Mr. C said. "It was also the first time she heard it with the sweeping sound of an orchestra. It was played with excitement and nostalgia on to a dramatic build up."

According to those who came earlier, after the overture, Sharon sauntered onstage and sang the final lines . . . *"At sana'y naririnig niya, naaalala kaya niya . . ."* Thunderous applause.

She segued into her original hit, "Pangarap na Bituin," followed by "All I Ever Want," a Ryan Cayabyab composition which is the title track of her latest album from BMG Records Pilipinas.

Sharon later sang an all-English medley of her favorite pop hits which she used to sing in her now-defunct "The Sharon Cuneta Show"— "One Hello," "Crazy for You," "Land of the Loving," "I'm Not the Same Girl," "Sunlight" and "Better Days."

Medleys

My companions and I (my editor **Louie Camino**, reporter **Marinel Cruz** and **Frederick**) entered the venue while Sharon was singing with **Martin Nievera**. They did a beautiful medley of **George Canseco, Rey Valera** and **Willy Cruz** songs, including "Gaano Kadalas ang Minsan," "Mahawi Man ang Ulap," "Tubig at Langis," "Pasan Ko ang Daigig," and "Sana'y Maghintay ang Walang Hanggan."

Sharon's repertoire consisted of medleys, each of which was as long as 20 minutes. By the time she did her finale it was nearly midnight, but she obliged with two more songs.

"*Sa* movie theme songs *pa lang niya, nabangag na ako,*" Mr. C would say later. "They all sounded the same and it was difficult to make them sound interesting. The first time all the songs were presented to me, I was overwhelmed with the numbers. It was impossible to make her sing all her hits individually in one show."

Duets

Sharon performed complete with the frills. With the use of a giant video screen on stage, Sharon was able to sing duets with video images of her leading men such as **Christopher de Leon, Robin Padilla** and **Richard Gomez.**

Two grand pianos flanked center stage for Ryan and guest musical director **Louie Ocampo.** Aside from the full orchestra, there was also a six-man back-up for vocals. Sharon sang a medley of gospel tunes with the UP Concert Chorus. At the end of the show, confetti rained on the audience.

Thank God no dancers crowded the stage. Sharon alone was enough for the crowd. She didn't sing any lung buster but her strong presence and her music were enough to delight the audience for more than three hours, with only a 15-minute break.

Together again

The show brought together Louie Ocampo and Mr. C in a rare performance together as Sharon sang a medley of their hits—"Limang Dipang Tao," "Ewan," "Tuwing Umuulan at Kapiling Ka," "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," "Kahit Ika'y Panaginip Lang," "Kahit Isang Saglit," "Tell Me," "How Can I." The last time the two composers played on the same stage was in the "Best of Manila" concert two years ago at the Westin Ballroom.

Sharon sang the stirring "Ikaw" for Kiko, her husband Sen. **Francis Pangilinan.** "I was promised forever more than once before," she told the crowd. "But the guys who said it didn't know what it meant. Kiko is the only guy who will give me forever."

Sharon's tribute to her leading men was so amusing so that even her husband was grinning in his front-row seat beside Sharon's daughter **KC,** mom **Elaine Cuneta** and aunt **Helen Gamboa.**

'Dear Heart'

In an original song with lyrics by director **Joey Reyes** (who was also in the audience) and music by Mr. C., Sharon sang about **Cesar Montano, Rudy Fernandez, Bong Revilla Jr., Fernando Poe Jr., Edu Manzano** and **Rowell Santiago** (whom she called her "ex"), while footage of the films she did with them were flashed on the screen. Finally the screen showed "Dear Heart" with **Gabby Concepcion,** and the crowd shrieked with delight.

Sharon was in tears when she sang Louie Ocampo's "In Time" for her dad, the late Pasay City Mayor **Pablo Cuneta.**

"I never had a problem being a child from a second family," she said before the song. "My dad didn't love me any less."

Martin returned onstage and surprised Sharon with an unscripted rendition of "You're Still You," the song **Josh Groban** sang on "Ally McBeal." The lyrics went straight to Sharon's heart and she hugged Martin while he sang, even as tears kept streaming down her cheeks.

Surprise

When Sharon was backstage changing into another gown, Martin entertained the audience and almost turned it into his concert. He spoofed himself as he sang a la **Johnny Matthis** or **Bert Nievera** and cracked jokes. He was a riot imitating "rival" **Gary Valenciano,** including the leg-work.

Sharon's "surprise" guest that night was Gary V, whom she introduced as her "brother-in-law." Gary's wife **Angeli Pangilinan** is Kiko's older sister.

In a fully sequined white gown topped by an organdy silk cape blouse, Sharon performed a much-applauded medley with Gary and Martin. They did "I Wanna Spend My Lifetime Loving You," "Cruisin'," "I Just Can't Stop Loving You," "When You Love Someone," "Come What May" and "The Prayer" in three beautiful voices.

More!

At the end, after the "Bituing Walang Ningning" encore, the audience clamored for more. She sang "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas."

The fans shrieked some more when Robin joined Sharon onstage for the refrain of "Maging Sino Ka Man," their first blockbuster teamup.

Robin was at the Big Dome with his brother **Rustom.** Other celebrities in the audience were **Anthony Pangilinan** and **Maricel Laxa, Judy Ann Santos, Ciara Sotto, Rowell Santiago, Joyce Jimenez, Caridad Sanchez, Amy Austria, Tina Monzon-Palma** and Sen. **Noli de Castro** with wife **Arlene** and daughter **Catherine.**

The success of the "Mega Event" proved that Sharon is a strong force in show biz. And it seems she will continue to be so beyond her 25th year.

TEARS AND MEDLEYS fill the night as Sharon Cuneta sings and reminisces. PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SURPRISE. With guests Gary V and Martin N.

Standout films

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN the film "Amelie" opened in town weeks ago, the expectation was that it would play for only a few days. Reasons: local audience prefer Hollywood movies, and "Amelie" had a French soundtrack and English subtitles and it's felt that viewers here don't like having to read subtitles.

Well, the film's good showing at Greenbelt 3 has surprised observers. It's now on its third month of screening, delighting viewers with its story about a lovely girl who turns into a do-gooder, and finds elusive happiness in the end.

"Amelie"'s success is a heartening sign that there's a growing niche audience here for non-commercial and non-mainstream movies. We trust that this realization is not lost on distributors and theater owners, and will prompt them to import similar films for local screening, even if only in one theater.

Another positive development is the popularity of some of the recent Cinemanila filmfest's offerings. It is hoped that, next year, more theaters and screenings can be given to the more in-demand filmfest movies.

Also heartening is the showing here of "Insomnia," **Christopher Nolan's** new film topbilling **Al Pacino, Robin Williams** and **Hillary Swank,** Oscar awardees all.

An the provocative movie, a teenage girl is brutally murdered and the cops believe that the murderer is a serial killer. To crack the case and prevent the murder of other young women, a crack investigator (Pacino) and his younger assistant who idolizes him (Swank) are brought to Alaska.

Pacino has a hard time focusing on the case because the long Arctic summer plays tricks on his subconscious. Swank thus has to act on her own and, among other suspects, focuses on a best-selling author (Williams).

The interplay between these idiosyncratic characters played by these three topnotch actors makes "Insomnia" one of the year's most promising movies. We hope it lives up to its advance notices, which have been glowing.

On the local film scene, we're feeling upbeat about 'Jologs," which could turn out to be an interesting youth film; "Bakat" for the textured performances of the veteran actors in it; and forthcoming productions like "Santa-Santita," "Mga Munting Tinig" and the update on "Moral" (after 20 years).

Things are looking up on the film scene. We trust that this upward trajectory can be maintained in the coming months.

Asean Film Week

THE 2002 Asean Film Week unreels at the CCP's Tanghalang Manuel Conde until Aug. 23. Film buffs interested in contemporary Asian cinema should make a beeline for these movies:

Aug. 21 at 7 p.m., "Roro Mendut (A Common Ideal)," Indonesia.

Aug. 22 at 4 p.m., "Co Lau," Vietnam. At 7 p.m., "Koo Kum (Sunset at Chaopraya)," Thailand.

Aug. 23 at 1:30 p.m., "Thingyan Moe (Water Festival Rain)," Myanmar. At 4 p.m., "Leftenen Adnan," Malaysia. At 7 p.m. at the Little Theater, "Tuhog," Philippines.

Movies on TV

WATCH out for these film treats on the HBO channel: Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 11 a.m., "Wyatt Earp." Thursday, Aug. 22 at 11 a.m., "Girl, Interrupted." 11 p.m., "Little Women." Friday, Aug. 23 at 9:45 a.m., "Philadelphia." 2:15 a.m., "The Godfather Part III."

Saturday, Aug. 24 at 6:30 a.m., "Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport." 9:30 p.m., "3,000 Miles to Graceland." Sunday, Aug. 25 at 11:30 a.m., "Three Kings." Monday, Aug. 26 at 7 p.m., "Vertical Limit." 10:30 p.m., "The Client."

On the Cinemax channel: Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 7:30 a.m., "The Glenn Miller Story." 9:30 a.m., "The Whole Nine Yards." Thursday, Aug. 22 at 12 noon, "Project Greenlight 6: Execution of the Day." 12:30 p.m., "Romanoff and Juliet." 9 p.m., "Snow Falling on Cedars."

Friday, Aug. 23 at 2:30 p.m., "Picking Up the Pieces." 3:15 a.m., "Cry Freedom." Saturday, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m., "American History X." Sunday, Aug. 25 at 11:30 a.m., "Joan of Arc."

Monday, Aug. 26 at 9:45 a.m., "Cinema Secrets 13: Hostile Takeovers." 12:15 p.m., "Beetlejuice." 1:45 p.m., "Stand and Deliver." 8:30 p.m., "Project Greenlight 7: A Nice Fertile Ground."

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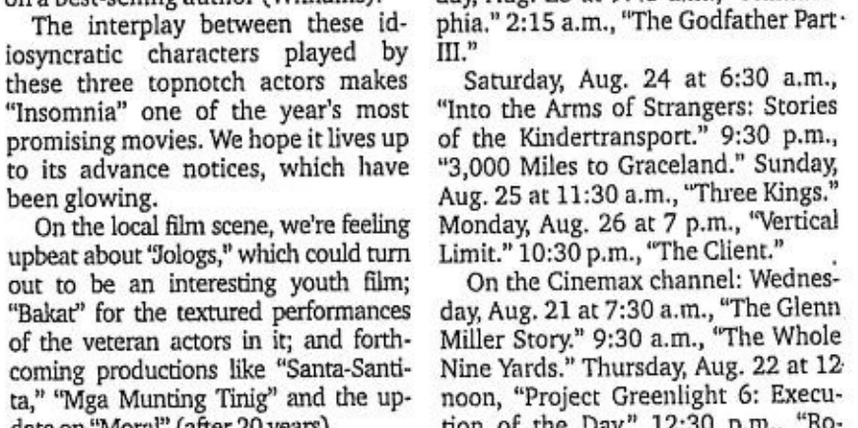
Rubbing elbows with stars in Elbow Room

ELBOW Room, the newest and hottest spot in town located at the 5th level of the Podium, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, recently opened with a grand fashion show that featured the 50-piece 2003 Sryle Collection of noted designer Avel Bacudio, modeled by the best live mannequins in the runaway.

The show was directed by Robbie Carmona and managed by Masterminds Asia. The fashion show also featured the latest watch collection of DKNY, Emporio Armani and Diesel.

Guests at the launch were Hans Sy of SM Prime Holdings; Rizza Lopez—Podium Mall manager; Al Francis Chua, coach of Sta. Lucia Realty; Rep. Sherwin Gatchalian of Valenzuela; Emerson Yao of Lucerne Watches; Rolando Hortaleza, CEO Splash Manufacturing Corp.; Riley Yao, accounts director of Masterminds Asia; Ric Camaligan—senior vice president SM-LCI; Mike Tan, COO Asia Brewery; Harley Sy—vice president of ShoeMart; Gwen and Kenneth Ku of Fiesta World Mall; and celebrities Daisy Reyes, Angela Velez and John Estrada.



TV host John Estrada (second from left) poses with (from left) Gerry Ramirez, Al Francis Chua, Jerry Lim and Sunny Ku after a game of billiards at Elbow Room.

The guests were entertained by Elbow Room owners Aldwin Ku (president), Sunny Ku (vice president for marketing), Cindy Ku (vice president for operations) and Jerry Lim (chief finance officer).

Elbow room is a bar cum restaurant cum gameroom occupying a 650 square meter area with an impressive and spacious L-shaped layout.

The tasteful modern asian interiors and subdued lighting were done by Gerry Ramirez and Alex Ong of Arquitectonica.

For reservations, call Elbow Room at 634-1404 or 635-2881.

LANI WOWS LA

She can be great if she stops screaming now

By Ruben V. Nepales
Contributor

REVIEW

LOS ANGELES—Many people in the audience went as far as saying she is the best singer from the Philippines they have watched in years.

In the first stop of her maiden solo concert tour of the US, Lani Misalucha wowed the audience with her trademark powerful singing style. The audience showered Lani with several standing ovations and roaring applause.

Staged at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, former site of the Emmy Awards and the current home of the People's Choice Awards, Lani's show gave Los Angeles' Filipino community its first full exposure to the singer's formidable talents.

Whether "Asia's Nightingale" was resurrecting a beautiful chestnut like "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me" or bringing out the charm of a seemingly simple song like Rey Valera's "Pangako," she did so in a voice that soared magnificently in the ornate-ceilinged, 70-plus-year-old auditorium: I dare say she is the most exciting performer from Manila in many years.

What Lani initially lacked in delivering spiels (she was constantly forgetting key words in her spiels) and in addressing the audience, she more than made up for with the sheer force of her voice. She connected with the audience simply on the strength of her impressive vocal range, depth and dynamism. You'd have to be a statue not to be moved by her singing.

Opera skills

Titled "Flight of the Nightingale," the show used the core of Lani's "The Crossover Live Tour" concert at the Araneta Coliseum with a few changes and additions here and there. Performing such disparate material, from Nat King Cole's 1950s hit "Orange Colored Sky" to Flora Purim's "Bridges," from Louie Ocampo and Joey Albert's heartfelt "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" to Seawind's "Follow Your Road," Lani did not shirk from the highest notes; she embraced and sustained them.

This year's Aliw "Entertainer of the Year" even showed off her opera diva skills by doing fading star Luciano Pavarotti's signature aria, "Nessum dorma." Only in a Pinoy concert can a Puccini aria suddenly materialize and be followed by "Laklak," an, er, ode to booze. Yet it worked.

Lani earned the supreme accolade of being called the best Filipino pop performer ever by displaying a remarkable vocal technique and flexibility matched by a very important asset—her voice, which is rich, warm and oozing with soul and pizzazz.

Exceptional

I am betting that if she is given a chance to perform alongside any world-famous pop entertainer, she will clobber the competition.

Living in the entertainment capital of the world, I am exposed to the finest entertainers. But watching Lani, guest Jed Maddela (a promising talent who did two solos and a duet with her) and her musicians from Manila led by Lorie Ilustre jolted me into remembering that Filipino music artists are truly exceptional.

By the end of the show, the audience had already stood and applauded, danced and sang along with her several times. For her encore, Lani, whose career is managed by Ronnie Henares, did her wickedly funny and brilliant "tribute" to Manila's divas.

When I first heard "Divas Medley 2" on Lani's "The Crossover Live Tour" CD (the best live concert CD I have heard from Manila in years), I marveled at this Viva Records artist's uncanny ability to mimic Pilita Corrales, Kuh Ledesma, Regine Velasquez, Jaya, Zsa Zsa Padilla and Sharon Cuneta.

The diva medley was even funnier in person. It turned out that Lani has physical gestures to go with her dead-on vocal impersonations (Patti Austin called them "vocal affectations" in her similar parody of American pop stars on the "Patti Austin Live" CD), from Kuh's chin-up ice queen hauteur to Jaya's hand and body groove mannerisms.

Her curse

Lani's take on Zsa Zsa's nasal and quivering vocal style offered the wickedest fun. My seatmates in the auditorium were rolling in laughter.

Unfortunately, Lani's ability to copy other singers is also her curse. At this stage in her career—she is already a star—Lani should cast aside her style influences, especially Whitney Houston's. Lani's "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me" sounded like Whitney, had the American superstar herself revived this song which was originally composed in Italian and recorded in English by Dusty Springfield and Elvis Presley.

I have to admit, though, that it was hard to resist Lani's bravura interpretation of this song a la Whitney.

But if Lani were to aspire for greatness, she should really toss aside Whitney and all these other ghosts—Barbra Streisand, Mariah Carey and company--from her early days recording rip-offs of Top 40 hits. Lani can make it grandly without Whitney's help. With her terrific talent, she can establish her own commanding style.

Stop it now

We also enjoyed Lani in the quieter passages of, for example, Jimmy Borja's "Bukas na Lang Kita Mamahalin." She sounded exquisite in these rare soft portions of her repertoire. She doesn't have to make a grand statement (read: break into vocal pyrotechnics) in each song. Many years from now, Lani's vocal chords will thank her for the occasional respite from all that belting.

The trend started by Mariah Carey, Shakira, et al to treat each song like a screaming match should really end now, pronto.

After all, oftentimes the benchmarks of a true artist are his subtlety and grace. Lani is thrilling to hear even when she is not belting. In these instances, when she is for once not engaging in vocal stunts, the beauty of her instrument is even more striking, her command of the nuances and lyrics of the composers impeccable.

Is she?

With the word out in LA on how excellent Lani is, she should be able to draw a bigger crowd next time. One of the producers, Jackie Regala, former Manila writer and now LA-based columnist and show impresario, vows to bring Lani back for another concert next year. If that happens, I'd like to hear Lani sing more OPM gems. I'm eager to savor Lani's reportedly knockout interpretations (as arranged by Louie Ocampo) of songs like Ryan Cayabyab's "Limang Dipang Tao" and George Canseco's "Bakit Ako Mahihiya?"

So is Lani truly the best Filipino pop singer right now? If she can soar without resorting to the easy audience pleasers and trusts herself that she has more than enough vocal gifts to become successful and loved on her own terms, yes, she is on her way.

And if she grows as a Filipino artist with a vision, who thinks of concerts with distinctive concepts and depth, who mines her fame to champion the Pinoy music artist and OPM, then she will continue to rise. She will be great, not just "best."

MISALUCHA. Powerful.

PHOTOS BY JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

Never-before-seen footage shows al-Qaida training

CNN INTERNATIONAL on Monday launched an exclusive weeklong series of never-before-seen footage taken from multiple videotapes recovered from inside Afghanistan by CNN's senior international correspondent Nic Robertson.

The tapes graphically reveal the expertise, resources and resolve of the al-Qaida terrorist movement. Experts tell CNN that the tapes show al-Qaida operatives training in the field as they practice assassinations, kidnappings and urban combat.

The five installments of "Terror on Tape" will air throughout the week and will conclude with a CNN special report summarizing the series.

Robertson worked several weeks to track the story, relying on sources he had cultivated during his years of reporting from Afghanistan.

In many cases, the footage is the video version of discarded documents discovered by CNN's Mike Boettcher last year in Afghanistan. In that discovery, CNN reported on papers, notes, documents and instruction manuals left behind by al-Qaida fighters in Kabul.

Many of the documents and manuals included instructions on how to hijack and blow up airplanes, build bombs and explode trains, ships and other modes of transportation.

Each day, CNN International is broadcasting reports on these tapes. More in-depth information is available on www.CNN.com/terrortapes.

Today, Wednesday, will be shown "Terror on Tape: Explosive Force." Buried in a movie video, it is a detailed primer on how to manufacture TNT from scratch, using easily available materials.

Tomorrow, Thursday, "Terror on Tape: In Training" will show footage of training in al-Qaida camps, including urban hostage taking and assassinations. The training video matches techniques in written material earlier obtained by CNN in Afghanistan and from al-Qaida's terror manual.

Friday, Aug. 23, "Terror on Tape: Face of Evil." What the tapes in total say about Osama bin Laden the man, and what the al-Qaida tapes tell us about future plans.

FOUR AWARDS FOR JOLINA

In just one month, Jolina Magdangal has won four awards, proving the she is show biz's most awarded young celebrity and an ideal role model for the youth today. She received the Medal of Honor as youth role model, given by the National Youth Day Committee and Kasama, awarded by Sen. Francisco Tatad. The GSIS also gave her a plaque of recognition as youth role model, awarded by its president and general manager Winston Garcia. Then there was the exemplary award for academic, entertainment and civic achievement from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. Jolina was tapped by Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to host the TV show, "Working President."

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RJ brings retro music on 'Rock the Boat' cruise

THE EDSA Shangri-La lobby is packed every Friday night with Manila's social set including movers and shakers in business and government as they recall the glory days of their youth with '60s recording artist and rock and roll icon, Ramon Jacinto and his band, RJ and Friends.

Playing a repertoire of retro music, RJ can coax this group to twist, jerk, boogie, cha-cha, swing and just simply dance their cares away.

RJ is taking his show to the high seas with a "Rock the Boat" cruise, Sept. 8 to 11 on board Superstar Leo, the largest cruise ship plying Asia-Pacific of Star Cruises.

Mounted by Danee Samonte of Soundtrack TV Production, "Rock the Boat" promises a dream vacation where guests can catch the sights during the day and dance the nights away in a rock 'n' roll retro party.

The four-day cruise will take off from Hong Kong with a stop-over at Sanya, Hainan, where the most beautiful pearls in China are cultivated. Then it's on to picturesque Halong Bay in Vietnam with its unique natural beauty.

RJ was the "kilabot ng mga colegialas" during the '60s and '70s with his popular band, RJ and the Riots.

He was also at the forefront of Manila's rock music scene with his radio station, dzRJ Boss Radio, a favorite among the hip and cool set of that era.

For more information on the special "Rock the Boat" cruise, call Star Cruises Philippines at 521-5660, 526-8401, fax 521-5637 or visit www.star-cruises.com

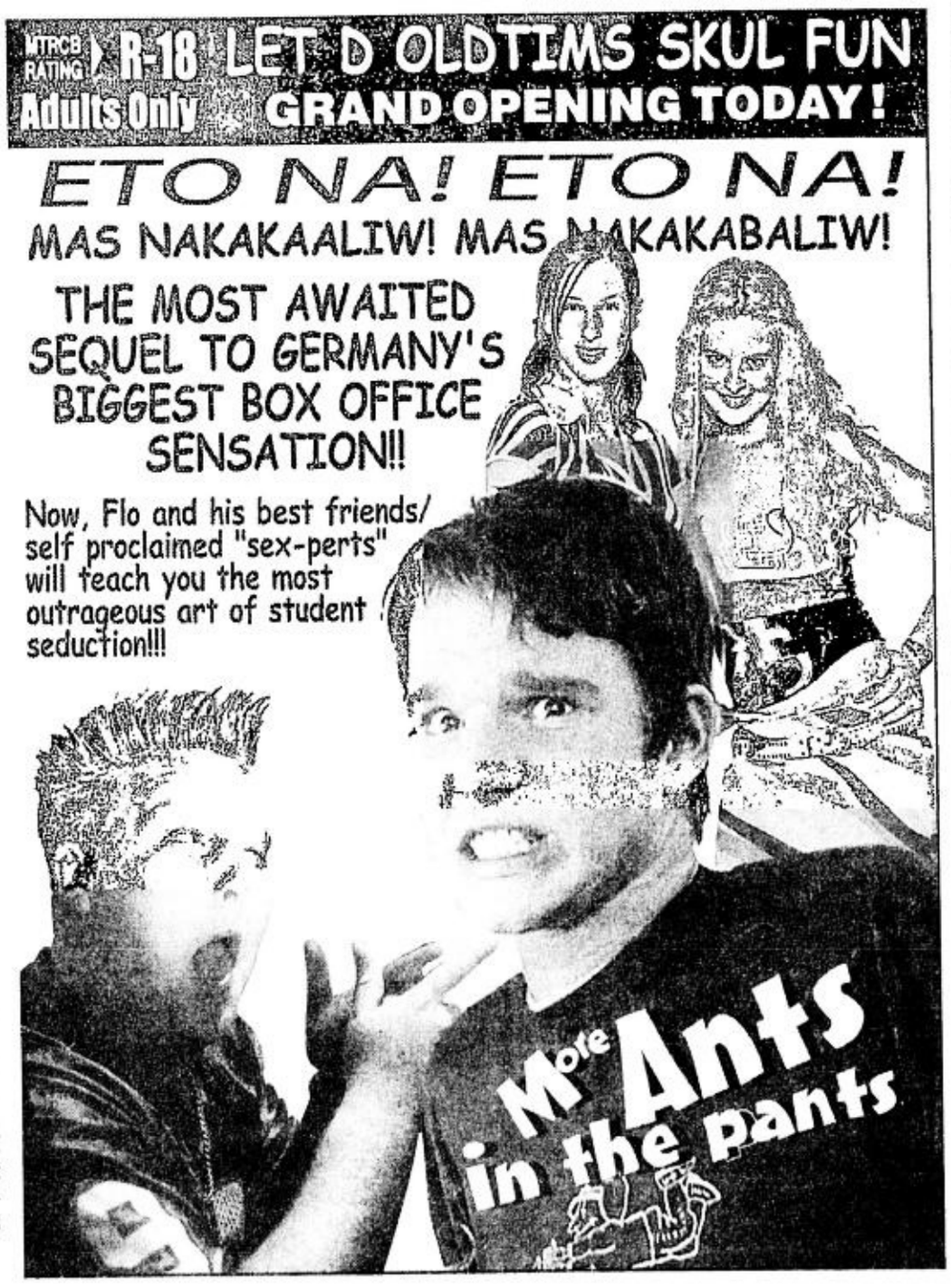
JACINTO. Performs a "Rock the Boat" Asian cruise.

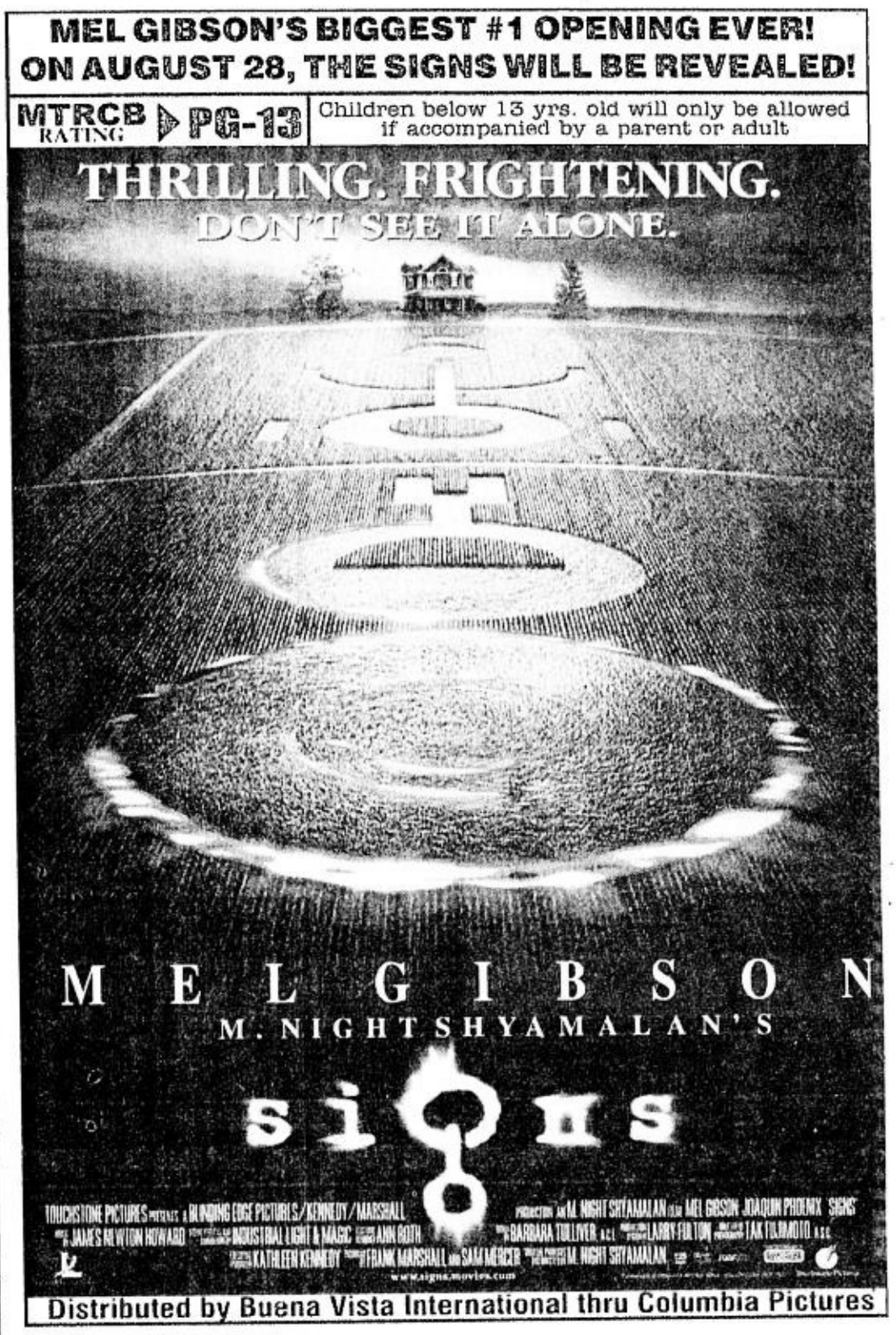
Kawago mall shows

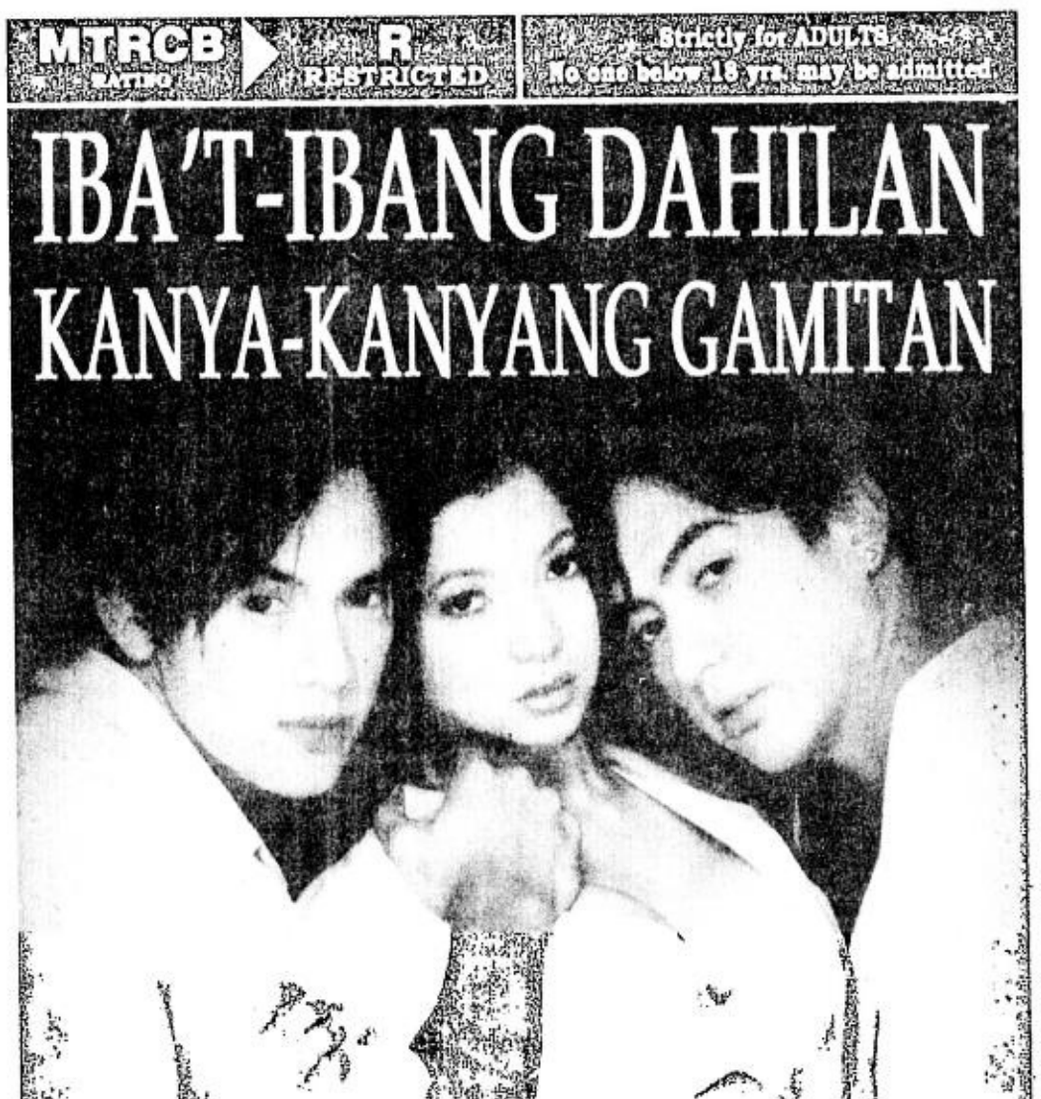
KAWAGO, the rap group behind the hit single, "Kailanman," will embark on a mall tour to promote their latest album.

"Kailanman" features Anne Jomeo, who started her singing career in 1997 with the popular group Fruitcake, the three girls behind the hit song "Whoops Kirri" dance remix. She recently released her self-titled solo album under Alpha Records, with its carrier single "Bangkang Papel."

Kawago and Anne Jomeo will promote their albums in several mall shows—Aug. 23 at SM Pampanga, Aug. 24 at Robinson's Imus, Aug. 25 at SM North Edsa, Aug. 30 at SM Cebu, Aug. 31 at SM Davao, Sept. 7 at Robinson's Novaliches and Sept. 8 at Robinson's East.







Non-Stop Wide-Screen Action!

xXx, a new breed of secret agent

After Schwarzenegger and Stallone, comes a new kind of action hero in a new kind of high-adrenaline action-adventure.

Vin Diesel is Xander Cage, a tattooed, buff-to-the-max underground thrill seeker. He is the ultimate Bad Boy... armed with astonishing physical stamina and the attitude to go with it.

After tangling with the law too many times, he is forced to pay his debt to society, going on a dangerous underground mission in Prague.

Recruited by tough veteran agent (SAMUEL JACKSON) of the National Security Agency, Xander must infiltrate a crime ring led by a brutal ex-Russian Army commander.

His secret agent code name: xXx (Triple X).

Columbia Pictures presents the biggest slam-bang action picture of the season!

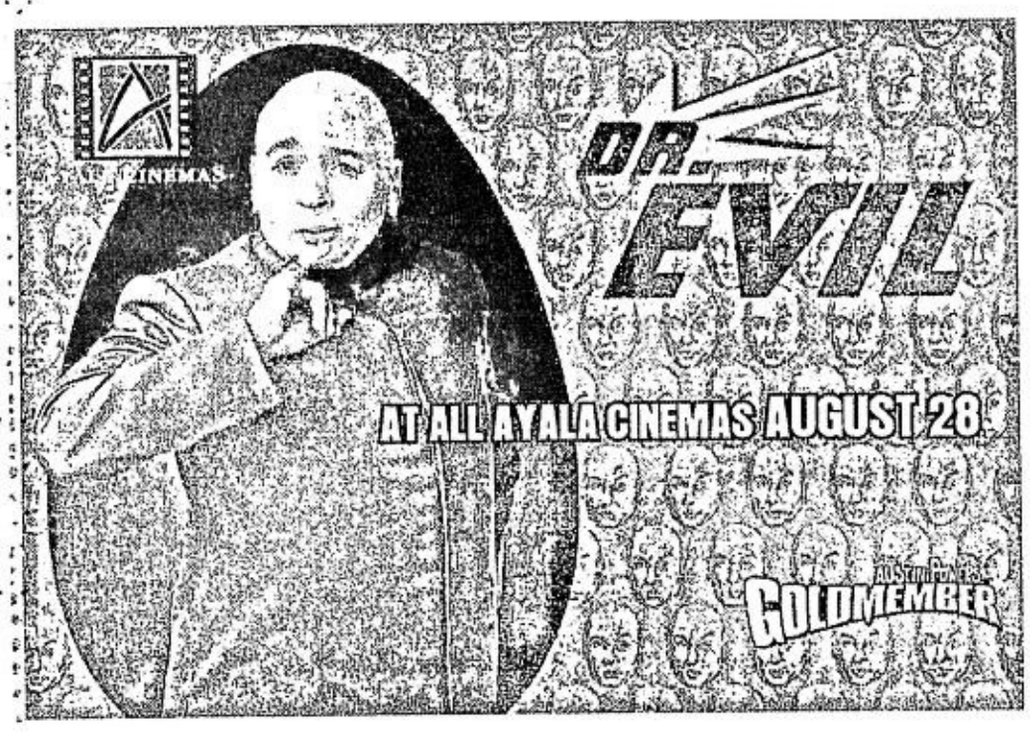
Time Magazine says xXx is "a highly stylized adrenaline rush of a movie." You won't want to miss it.

Only in Cinemas

'It's Raining Hunks' at Casino Filipino

THE HUNKS -- Jericho Rosales, Piolo Pascual, Bernard Palanca, Carlos Agassi and Diether Ocampo -- are set to whip up a storm in "It's Raining Hunks," a concert at 9 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 23 at the Casino Filipino Theater in Parañaque.

Special guest in the show is Rosanna Roces. The show is mounted by Live Artists Production. For ticket inquiries, call 920-2643 or 0918-923-9835.



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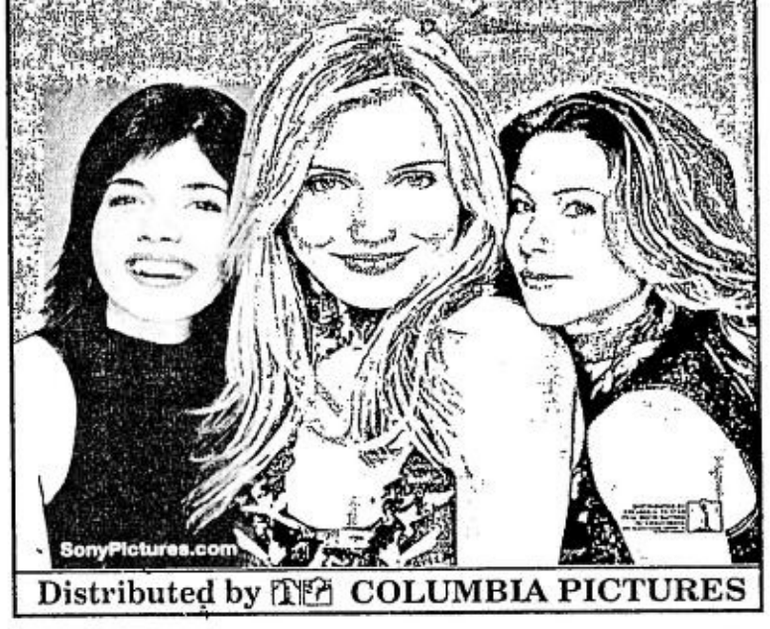
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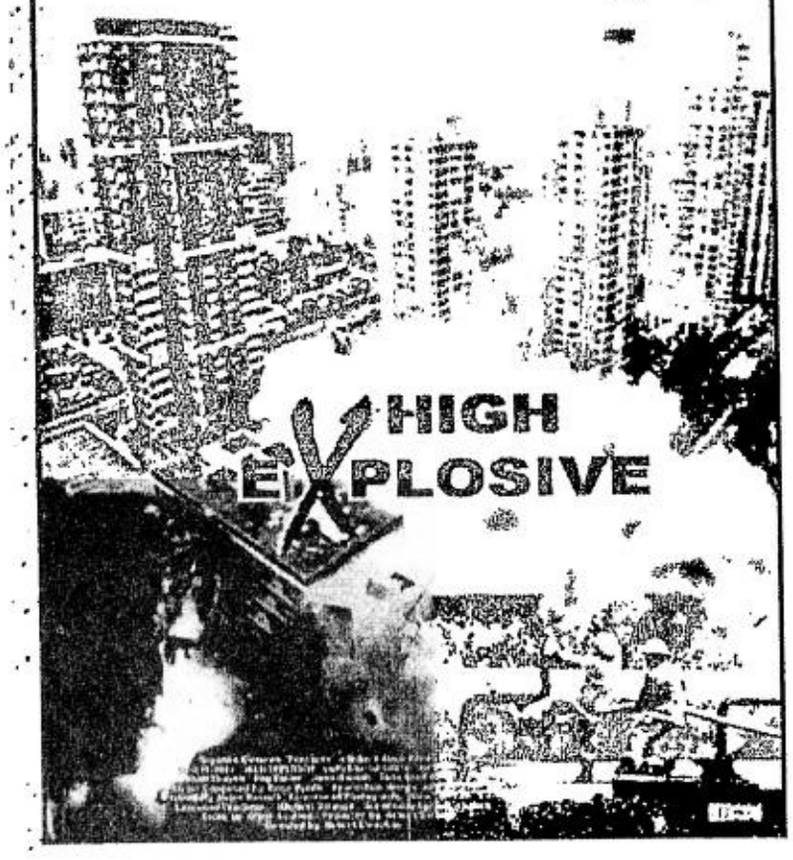
Angora Films Released
Sam Elliott
Anne Ramsay
A Mad Bomber, on the City of the Edge!


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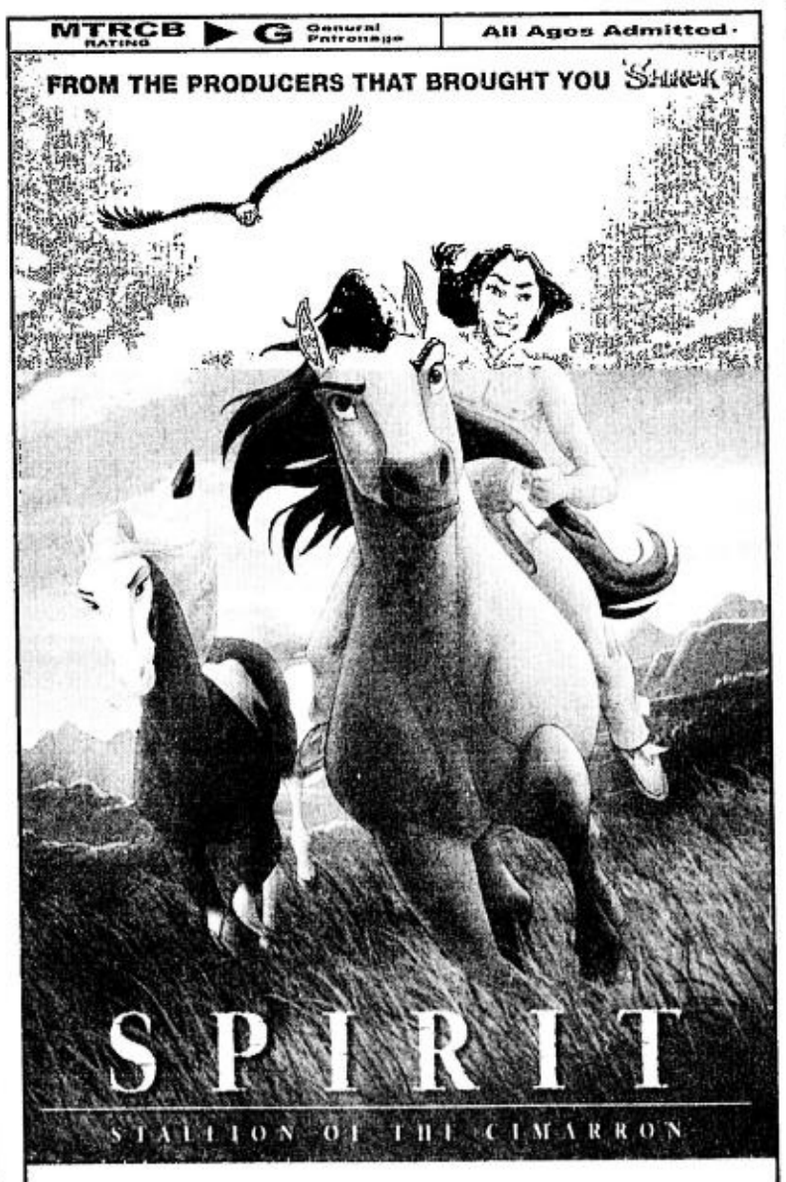

OPENS AUGUST 28

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Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
GAMITAN R18 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:00
LILO & STITCH GP 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:30
THE SWEETEST THING R18 12:30,2:20,4:10, 6:00,7:50,9:40
INSOMNIA P13 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00
UNFAITHFUL R18 11:30,2:05,4:40, 7:15,9:50
TRIPLE X P13 11:50,2:25,5:00, 7:35,10:10
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GAMITAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BIGLANG LIKO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SWEETEST THING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	INSOMNIA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SEZ & ZEN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	GAMITAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIYAK NA GUBAT / WILD SIDE
ODEON	TRIPLE XL
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	GAMITAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LAWGIT KO
TIMES	HART'S WAR / SCORPION KING

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SEXZ &ZEN THE UNTOLD STORY
REMAR	GAMITAN
REMAR-2	BIGLANG LIKO

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	GAMITAN
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-2	TRIPLE X

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-2	KILLINE ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-3	SWEETEST THING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	8 LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HUMAN EATER
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	D' URAGONS
CINEMA-8	SEX & ZEN UNTOLD STORY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	INSOMNIA
CINEMA-12	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
CINEMA-14	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-15	GAMITAN

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

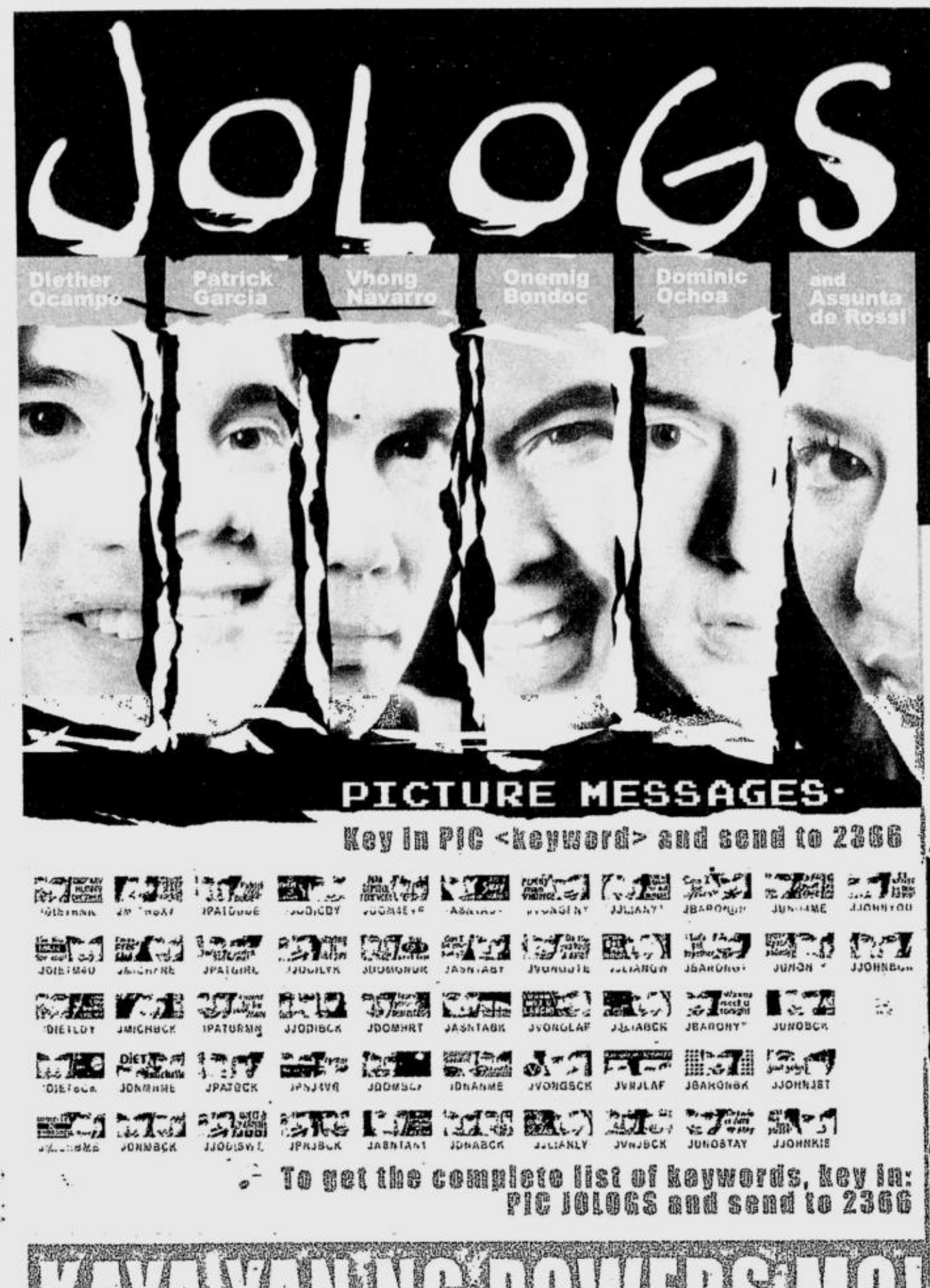
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

She can be great if she stops screaming now A29

'Mega Event' worth the 25-year wait A28



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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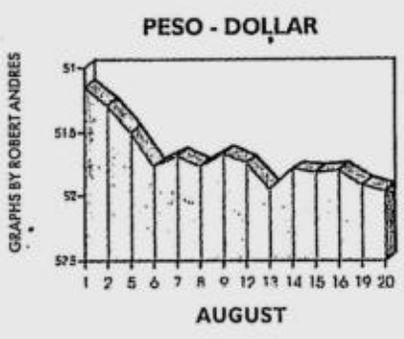
Peso breaches 52:$1 on deficit worries

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.96 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 20, 2002

¥118.80 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 20, 2002

GOLD: $308/308.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 20, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.7%

SHARE prices fell 0.7 percent yesterday amid concerns over the growing budget deficit and the weakness of the local currency, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 8.01 points to 1,128.88.

"The budget deficit, the weak peso, and the stability of the political order with the barrage of resignations of people in delicate positions in government" all dampened market sentiment, said Manny Cruz of Mark Securities.

AFP

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO yesterday broke the 52-to-$1 level on uncertainties caused by the unexpected resignation of Rene Bañez as commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue but profit-taking toward the closing period pushed it back to 51.96.

HSBC treasurer John McGowan yesterday said that with the renewed uncertainties gripping the market, it would be unlikely for the peso to recover to 48 to a dollar in the remaining months of the year especially if the volatile trend would continue.

The peso opened weak at 52.05 yesterday after closing at 51.91 last Monday. Once the local currency hit a day's low of P52.15, investors started taking profit.

Amando Tetangco Jr., deputy governor of the central bank, said that regional currencies also recovered toward the close of trading yesterday. He denied that the central bank sold dollars to help the peso.

"We earlier projected that the peso would recover to as much as 48 if the government would rein in the fiscal sector. But it appears that the fiscal side is troubled," said McGowan, defending a peso forecast made during the first quarter.

McGowan said the foreign exchange market had been reacting to the resignation of Bañez, which he said was a normal behavior of the financial sector every time a ranking government official quits his post.

The concerns about Bañez leaving his post at the BIR was related to the problems of the government in meeting its deficit target of P130 billion this year.

McGowan said the market had been feeling jittery about the government's rising deficit that reached P119.7 billion as of June. The fiscal gap was believed to have reached the full-year target as of July.

Fitch Ratings, an influential foreign credit-rating firm, also warned yesterday the government that a continued fiscal slippage, estimated to hit P155 billion this year, could reverse the country's stable rating in the next two years and make external fund-raising more difficult.

"Fitch believes that the government will be hard pressed to hold the deficit much below P155 billion (3.8 percent of the gross domestic product) for the year," said the rating firm, pointing out that the government has a very slight chance of meeting its P130-billion deficit target for 2003.

Still, Fitch said it believed that for the meantime, a P155-billion budget gap "would still be within tolerable limits."

Fitch noted that the Philippines' fiscal problems could not have come at a worse time when financial markets were comparing its situation with Latin American countries, particularly Brazil's.

The rating firm explained that the country's fundamentals were stronger compared to Brazil in terms of macroeconomic performance, favorable interest rates, large current account surplus, and modest external financing requirement.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho welcomed the insights of Fitch and its decision to keep a stable outlook for the Philippines.

He pointed out, however, that concerns of credit-rating agencies on the potential external borrowing problems next year were unwarranted considering that even when the Philippines had a negative rating outlook, the government was able to borrow funds at favorable rates.

Fitch, touted to be the more tolerant of Philippine setbacks compared to its peers, also cited the 2004 presidential elections as a significant factor that could prevent the government from pursuing an earnest fiscal consolidation as political decisions usually override the need to keep a lid on spending.

"Such events would complicate fiscal management next year as there would be little political appetite for consolidation in the run up to the presidential elections in 2004. If the deterioration in public finances were to persist through 2003 and 2004, the Philippines' international credit standing and sovereign rating would be under threat," it said in a statement from Hong Kong yesterday.

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- Benito Dellosa, *Laguna*

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IMPROVING ECONOMY

ICTSI unit opens new depot

By Doris C. Dumlao

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. expects its flagship Manila International Container Terminal to sustain a volume growth of more than 8 percent this semester from a year ago on the back of the strong rebound in Philippine imports and exports.

ICTSI executive vice president Edgardo Abesamis told reporters during yesterday's launching of a new six-hectare empty container depot at MICT that the movement of goods to and from the country this year was boosting port business compared to the flat activity seen last year.

"In the first semester, we posted about 8 percent (volume growth) and that will continue. Considering the Christmas season, there might even be an improvement and if the typical Christmas (spending) happens, for the second half we might exceed 8 percent (growth) year on year," Abesamis said.

In a speech during the inauguration, ICTSI senior vice president and MICT general manager Francis Andrews said the increasing container influx at the MICT indicated that "the Philippine economy is getting back on its feet."

For the first six months of 2002, volume at the MICT expanded by 8 percent from 443,933 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) to 479,457 TEUs on the back of a 14-percent expansion in the second quarter, reversing the slump seen last year when the US-led global slowdown reduced offshore demand for Philippine exports and tempered imports as well.

For the whole of 2001, container volume at the MICT declined by 3 percent to 928,249 TEUs from a year ago, although non-containerized cargo handled was up 14 percent at 621,049 metric tons.

The expansion of MICT through the construction of the new empty container depot is also reflective of ICTSI's expectations of a better year ahead.

"The ever-changing global market, the improving container traffic brought by a steadier Philippine economy, the market and client demand made us decide to develop this reclaimed area into an empty container depot and container repair facility," Andrews said.

"Now, shipping lines no longer have to park their empty containers far from the MICT. Empty boxes stored at the empty container depot can easily be transported to MICT's export container freight station for stuffing or to any warehouse in Metro Manila. Moreover, empty containers can now be cleaned and repaired within the MICT," he explained.

Delay seen in Digitel launch of mobile unit

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MUCH delayed launch of Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.'s wireless business could face yet another snag once cellular firm Smart Communications Inc. refuses to interconnect with it and brings its case to the court.

A source familiar with the matter yesterday said Smart had indicated that it would challenge an impending order from the National Telecommunications Commission for it to interconnect its network with that of Digitel.

"The NTC has given us up to the end of the month to settle our differences. After that, it will already give its mandate but Smart can still take its case to court. This could delay the launch by a few months," the source said.

The NTC had given Smart and Digitel up to the end of August to come up with a cellular-to-cellular interconnection agreement and at the same time interconnect their landline networks.

If the two carriers fail to arrive at an agreement, the NTC would issue an order for them to interconnect.

But NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said either of the parties could still contest the NTC's decision by filing a case in court.

"As far as the NTC is concerned, any delay in interconnection should not inconvenience their end-users," Rio said.

The source stressed that the possibility of the launch actually pushing through as scheduled, before year's end, was bigger than its being shelved again.

"It's totally management's decision whether or not to postpone the launch again," he added.

PSE lifts trading suspension on shares of Picop

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday lifted the trading suspension on Picop Resources Inc., the country's biggest integrated manufacturer of wood and paper products, following the renewal of its corporate license by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In a circular to brokers yesterday, PSE senior vice president Jose Cervantes said the local bourse allowed Picop to resume trading after the SEC had affirmed the extension of its corporate life starting March 31 this year.

The stock remained untraded on the sluggish local stock market, however, even after the suspension was lifted yesterday.

The PSE earlier suspended the trading of Picop shares due to the latter's failure to resolve its application for license renewal at the SEC. Picop was disputing the fees being charged by the corporate watchdog.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, August 20, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.25	17	16.25	17	350,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	45.5	45.5	98,800
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	120
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27	26	27	311,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36	36	36	36	38,400
Philippine National Bank	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	6,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.75	19	18.5	18.5	90,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	220,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1215	1215	1215	1215	430
Sun Life Financial Serv.	920	920	920	920	2,630
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.75	22	21.75	22	5,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.55	390,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	490	490	487.5	487.5	26,600
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	1,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.023	0.025	0.023	0.023	17,500,000
Piltel	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	280,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	302.5	302.5	297.5	300	86,380
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	60,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	19.5	19	19	15,700
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	30.5	29.5	30	202,300
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	574,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.46	2.5	2.46	2.5	51,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.45	3.5	3.45	3.5	23,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	120,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	21,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49	48.5	49	568,300
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54	53.5	53.5	3,200
Universal Robina Corp.	4	4	4	4	25,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.44	0.45	0.42	0.42	320,000
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	92,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.34	2.32	2.34	41,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	150,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	60,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.46	2.46	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.2	10	8.2	10	15,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	5,470,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	449,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	48,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	200,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.59	750,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.245	1,880,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.53	0.56	0.49	0.56	370,000
Matsushita Elec Phil. Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	60,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8	8	8	8	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.28	0.32	0.28	0.31	210,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22	22	22	643,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10	10	10	10	600
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	6	6	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.82	1.82	3,692,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.74	1.78	140,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	920,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	50,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.9	5.9	5,797,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	540,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	300,000

SHARES		VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,126,280	25,047,350.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	92,637,880	95,542,155.00
PRO	11,159,000	42,102,230.00
Mining	1,890,000	249,600.00
OIL	0	0.00
GRAND TOTALS:	106,813,160	162,941,335.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	449.83	DOWN 2.39
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,539.56	DOWN 7.72
PRO	528.52	DOWN 9.28
Mining	1,097.93	UP 7.32
OIL	1.59	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	643.84	DOWN 4.36
Composite	1,128.88	DOWN 8.01

NO. OF ADVANCES: 11; NO. OF DECLINES: 28; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 32; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 71; NO. OF TRADES: 1,046

DISCLOSURES

MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc. denied having any information that may have caused the unusual movement in the price of its shares.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Properties Inc. disclosed the resignation of Ramon Abejuela as director of the company effective immediately.

* * *

UEM Development Philippines Inc. announced the appointment of Jennifer Eñano-Bote as compliance officer.

* * *

SOLID Group Inc. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on Sept. 24, 3 p.m. at the Fairways, Manila Golf and Country Club, Makati City to approve the acquisition of interests in **Destiny Cable Inc.** and/or **Destiny Inc.** in exchange for shares of stock of SGI. Record date is on Aug. 24.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

Aug. 20, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.023541	1.000000	51.8840
Japan	Yen	0.008636	0.008437	0.4377
United Kingdom	Pound	1.563869	1.527900	79.2736
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131225	0.128207	6.6519
Switzerland	Franc	0.681180	0.665513	34.5295
Canada	Dollar	0.650984	0.636011	32.9988
Singapore	Dollar	0.584613	0.571167	29.6344
Australia	Dollar	0.555066	0.542299	28.1366
Bahrain	Dinar	2.715108	2.652661	137.6307
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272945	0.266667	13.8358
Brunei	Dollar	0.582949	0.569541	29.5501
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000117	0.000114	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024353	0.023793	1.2345
UAE	Dirham	0.278697	0.272287	14.1273
Korea	Won	0.000864	0.000844	0.0438
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.977000	50.6907
Argentina	Real	0.281967	0.275482	14.2931
Brazil	Real	0.332967	0.325309	16.8783
Denmark	Kroner	0.134611	0.131515	6.8235
India	Rupee	0.021099	0.020614	1.0695
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.269389	0.273193	14.1743
Mexico	New Peso	0.105280	0.102859	5.3367
New Zealand	Dollar	0.477376	0.446396	23.1608
Norway	Kroner	0.135613	0.132494	6.8743
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017260	0.016863	0.8749
South Africa	Rand	0.096743	0.094518	4.9046
Sweden	Kroner	0.108301	0.105810	5.4898
Syria	Pound	0.019913	0.019455	1.0094
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030336	0.029638	1.5377
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000744	0.000727	0.0377

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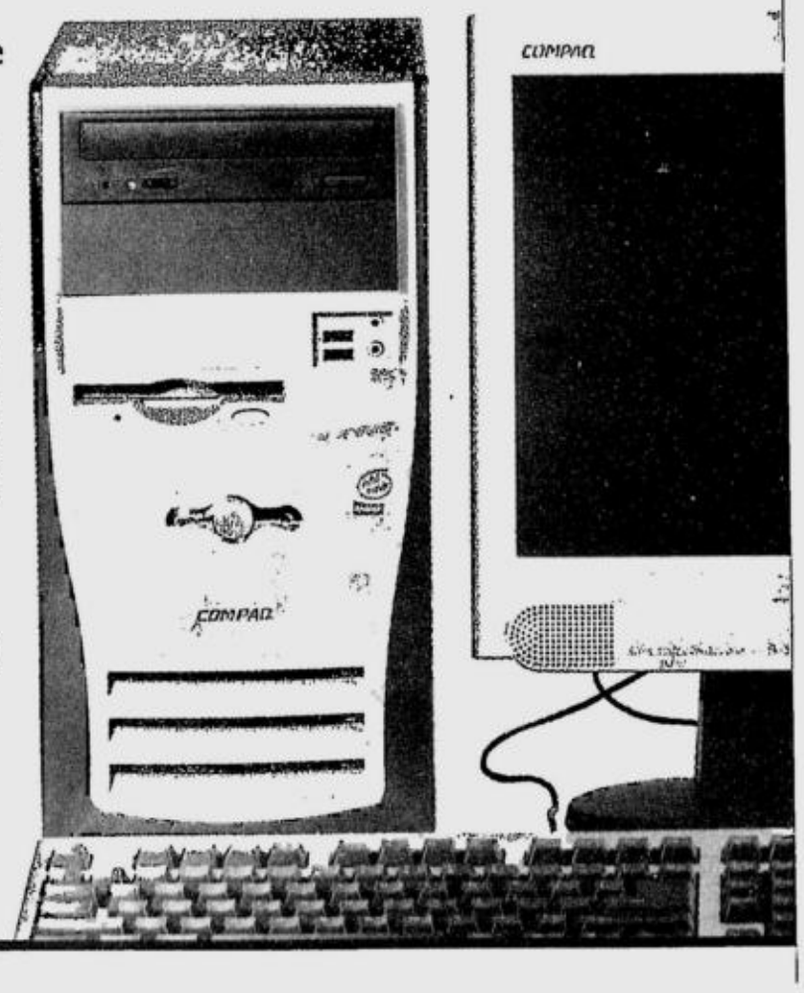

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COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

HERE's bad news for VAT dodgers.

The BIR's nationwide computer network will finally be fully operational by October, and any discrepancy in value-added tax reporting by any taxpayer should immediately be available to the taxmen after a few keystrokes.

The recent announcement, no less made during a press conference by President Macapagal-Arroyo, that tax evasion charges will be filed against 300 firms was actually just a dry run by the BIR.

And there is no way for the errant firms to dispute the figures, since they themselves had declared and submitted under oath the very same VAT figures.

The BIR has a special unit, under Deputy Commissioner Estelita Aguirre, that is working even during weekends, now manually re-checking the printouts of the computerized matching system, just to be sure that, like a balance sheet, the left and the right column matches.

What the Aguirre unit does, if we could translate computer/tax gobbledygook in layman's terms, is to match the VAT credits being claimed by the buyer with the VAT declaration of the seller.

A leading supplier of SM Shoemart, one of the 300 being charged, was ferreted out this way.

What the Aguirre team did was to check the VAT credits being sought by SM Shoemart from all its suppliers.

SM Shoemart will of course declare its actual purchase prices from its suppliers if it wants to avail itself of the 10-percent VAT input/output credit from the transactions.

Using the SM Shoemart VAT declaration, the BIR then compared the SM Shoemart list with the VAT declarations of all the suppliers. Bingo, the mismatch was instantly obvious.

In addition to SM Shoemart, the BIR has also been meeting with the country's large taxpayers, and asking them to recheck and declare under oath that their VAT declarations are indeed correct.

According to the grapevine, San Miguel Corp. and PLDT have submitted

COCKTALES/ B4

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EXPORTS SEMINAR. EARN DOLLARS IN THE PHILIPPINES. Don Bosco - Center for Research and Training, in cooperation with Luzon Buying Office, Inc., will hold a seminar workshop on August 24, 2002 from 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM. A minimal fee of P2,500.00 per participant will be charged. For more details please call Rayzel or Gen at 531-54-19 or 531-53-49.

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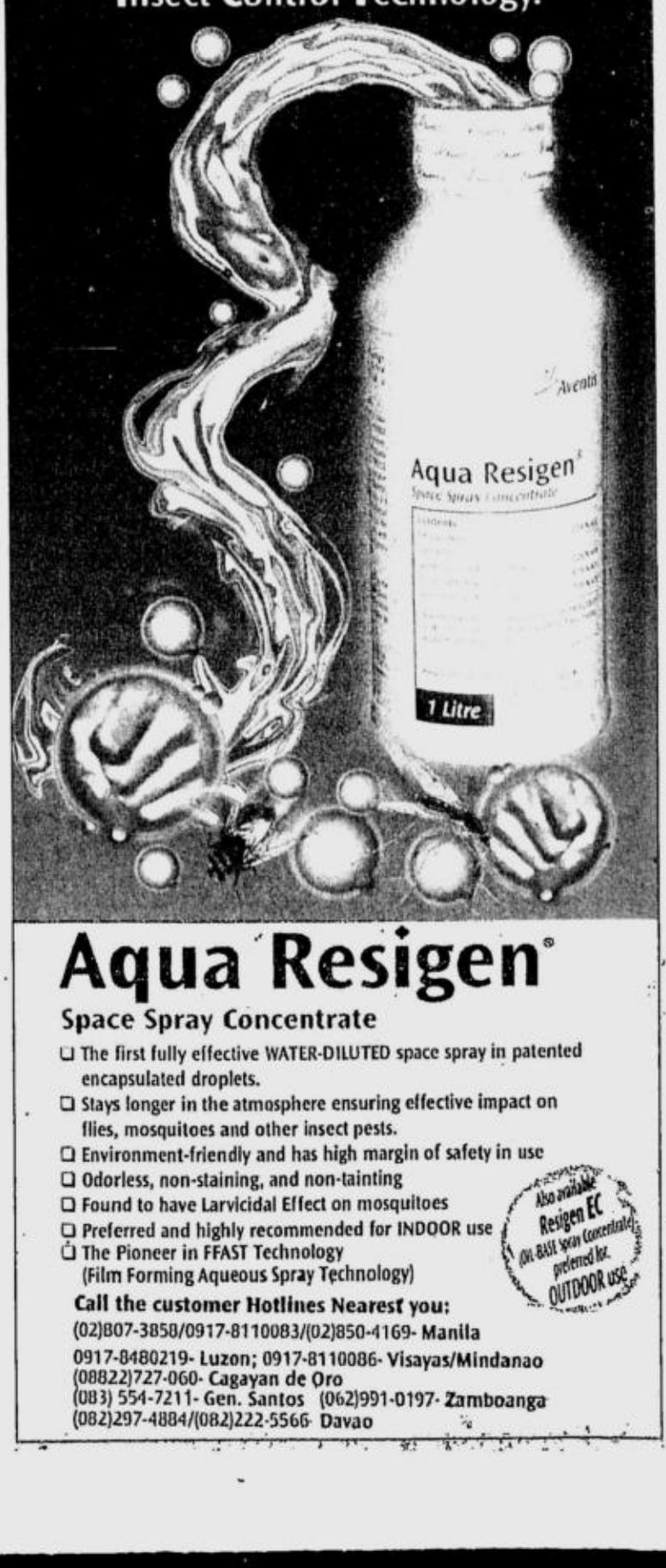

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Cement makers in all-out price war in Cebu

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SPECIAL REPORT

CEBU has become the battlefield of an all-out price war between local cement manufacturers and importers, as both camps besiege each other with bargain prices amid the slowdown in construction activity and cessation in imports.

Hostilities have already spread to nearby provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao based on the steep fall in cement prices in these regions. It is only a matter of time before the battle moves to the country's biggest market—Metro Manila.

Data furnished by the Department of Trade and Industry price monitoring showed that cement prices in Central Visayas dropped by more than 40 percent to P76 a bag for Portland cement and P70 a bag for Pozzolan cement this month from P129 and P124 in January.

One war, two versions

The price decline was triggered by a fiery exchange of price cuts in March this year between Apo Cement Corp. of Mexico's Cemex SA de CV and Grand Cement Manufacturing Corp. of Japan's Taieyo. The two companies are apparently undercutting each other in the country's second-biggest market, but there are at least two versions on who fired the first shot.

A Cemex source claimed that Taieyo initiated the price cuts in retaliation for its successful lobbying to impose punitive duties on cement imports. With imports rendered more prohibitive by the additional duty, Taieyo supposedly opted to kill the competition by selling Grand Cement's output at hefty discounts.

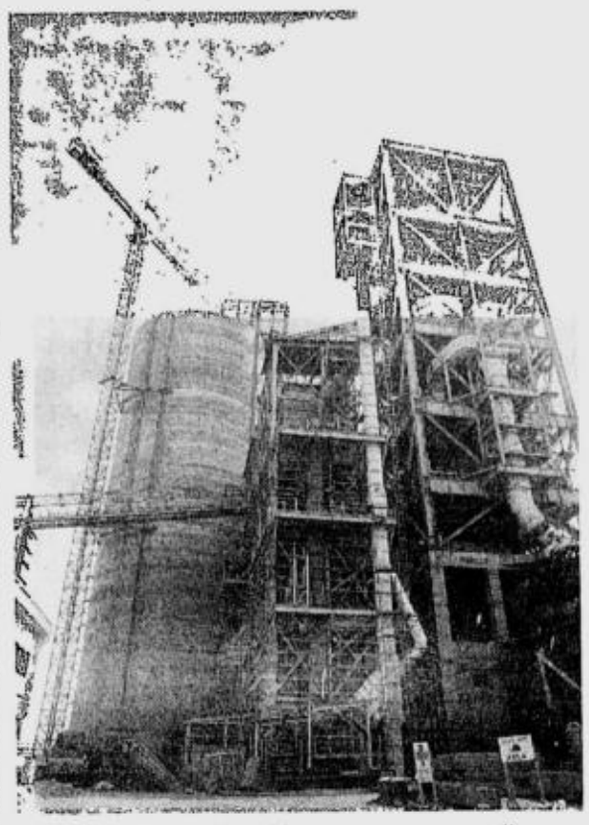
The Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. obtained a court injunction barring the Department of Trade and Industry from lifting the P20.60 provisional duty on cement imports.

The trade department was supposed to discontinue the provisional duty even before its expiry date on June 30 after the Tariff Commission rejected Philcemcor's petition for punitive duties and quotas, claiming there was no connection between the cement industry's injuries and the surge in cement imports over the last two years.

Taieyo claimed that Cemex initiated the price cuts to get even after Taieyo rejected a proposal to stop its subsidiary, Southern Cross Cement Corp., from importing cement and to instead buy from Grand Cement.

Taieyo said it could not buy local cement because its main buyers, Japanese contractors in the Philippines, were demanding Japan-quality cement that had higher specification than the Philippines. Southern Cross, which operates a silo in Tondo, has been importing cement in bulk from Japan since 1999 and in bags from Indonesia since 2000.

But a Cemex official denied that Cemex made an attempt to hatch a deal with Taieyo, as he claimed that the company did not even know who was in charge of Taieyo because it was undergoing a restructuring in Japan.



CEMENT plants like this one are reportedly churning out huge volumes and selling cheap in a price war in Cebu that threatens to erupt into a full-blown crisis.

Spreading

While it is unclear who and what triggered the initial salvo, what is indisputable is that the price war has intensified in Cebu and has spread like a tidal wave in nearby regions, forcing other players to join the fray.

Since Apo Cement and Grand Cement only wanted to get each other's throat, both initially made sure that their buyers would not sell their cement outside Cebu and areas where both combatants were present, such as Tacloban, Ormoc, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo and Bacolod. One trader offered to buy as much as 50,000 bags from Grand Cement but was rejected outright when he told them he would ship them to Manila.

As cement prices fell, however, arbitrage opportunities abounded, spurring traders to bring cement to outlying provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao. Both Apo Cement and Grand Cement were helpless in restricting their products within the disputed territories.

DTI price monitoring data showed that cement prices in Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Western Mindanao and Northern Mindanao dropped to between P98 and P95 a bag this month from P127 and P135 in January due to a torrent of cheap cement from Central Visayas.

With cheap cement disturbing the "peace" in their territory, other cement players, notably Davao Union Cement Corp., decided to launch a counter-offensive by bombarding Cebu and Central Visayas with their own cheap cement. This further eroded cement prices to a four-year low of P57 a bag.

A pocket price war has likewise flared up in Bicol, where the fledgling Goodfound Cement Corp. has cut prices on its Mayon Cement brand. This has effectively undercut its rivals operating out of Rizal and Batangas. The winds of war is indeed blowing northwards.

Fighting for scraps

The Cemex source said a price war erupted only because the players were fighting for scraps, considering that the rainy season had dried up construction activity in the country.

Grand Cement's threat was not sustainable because of its limited capacity—it produces only 60,000 to 80,000 bags a month versus the 400,000 bags produced by producers in the Visayas and Mindanao—and the same cost structure as its competitors.

The source said while Apo Cement still did not understand the logic behind Grand Cement's strategy to sacrifice profits for market share, it was prepared to defend at any cost its market. Both Apo Cement and Grand Cement have reportedly lost over P1 billion in combined potential profits over the past few months. ***(To be concluded)***

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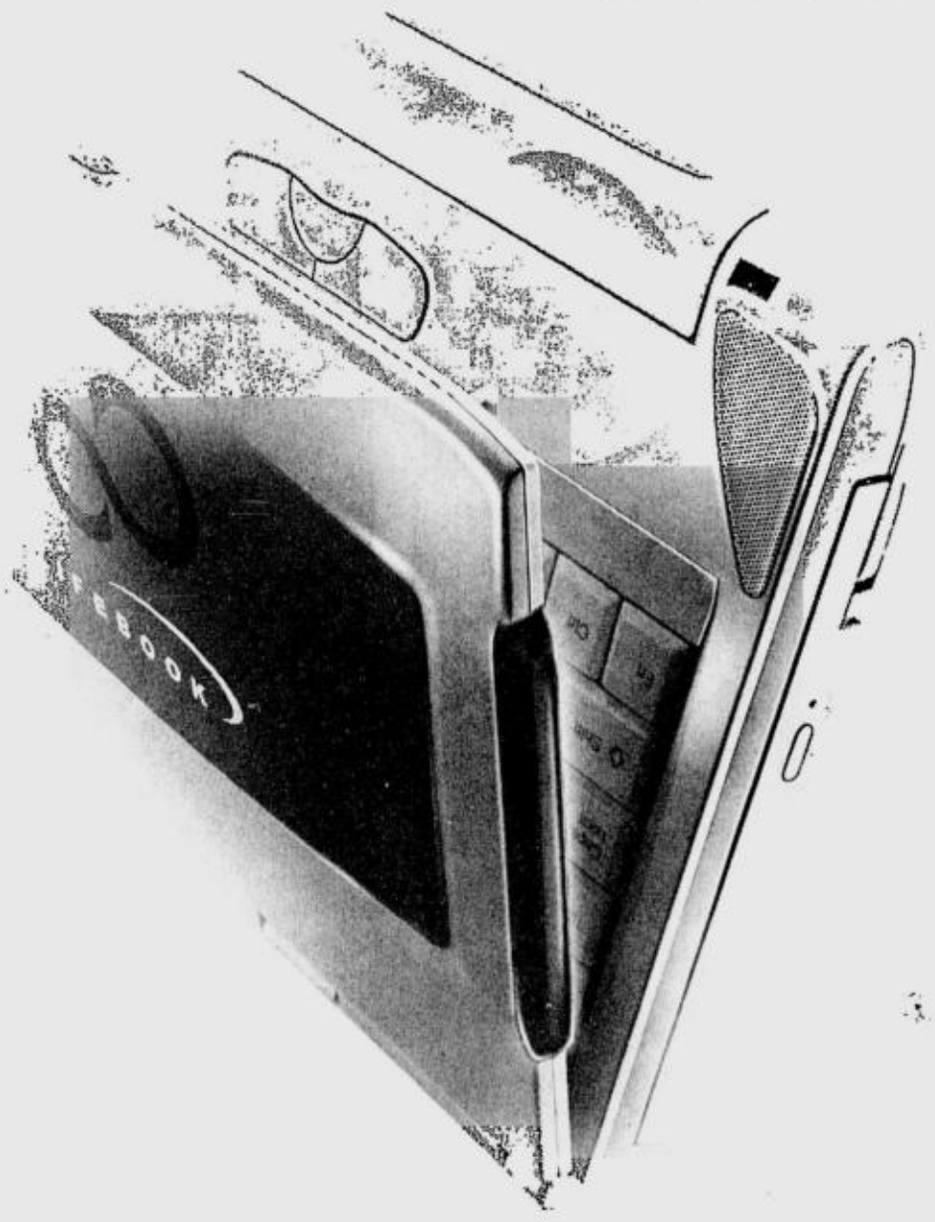

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Cocktales . . .

From page B3

their certified lists, both in paper and computer disks, and many of the 300 errant firms caught in the VAT dragnet happened to be their own suppliers.

The big corporations, in effect, have become the industry whistleblowers.

(Question: Why is it that almost all the car parks in the Ayala Center and Ortigas do not automatically give receipts? One has to demand a receipt, before the attendant/security guard hands it, oftentimes accompanied by a dirty look.)

Peace signals at First Pacific

ALL that kicking and screaming seem to be now behind, and the denial mode has apparently given way to acceptance.

We are referring to the boardroom intramurals at First Pacific Co., the Hong Kong-based controlling investor of Metro Pacific and PLDT.

Manuel V. Pangilinan, who wears multiple hats as First Pacific executive chair and CEO of the rebellious Metro Pacific/PLDT, held a long discussion with First Pacific executives Sunday, before the special board meeting of the publicly listed investment company in Hong Kong on Monday.

According to the grapevine, MVP also attended the Monday meeting, with First Pacific principal Anthoni Salim also in attendance. Because of his conflicting roles, MVP had to be asked to step out when the Gokongwei-First Pacific deal came up on the agenda.

In any case, the word from Hong Kong is that MVP and the Salims are again talking in earnest, trying to find a mutually acceptable solution to the First Pacific-PLDT/Metro Pacific impasse.

BMW fans

A SCION of an old-rich family was flagged down in front of Camp Crame yesterday morning by the Traffic Management Group, simply because he was driving a brand-new BMW X-5.

The X-5 had both license plates and the conduction sticker, but the TMG still wanted the SUV stopped "for verification" simply because the license plates had "two holes."

In another incident, a Hungarian executive of BMW Philippines got the scare of his life when he was recently stopped by civilians in an unmarked police car at the Balintawak end of North Luzon Expressway.

The expat, Gabor Csurgai, was test-driving a diesel 3-series when singled out among the sea of Japanese cars. The Bimmer only had a conduction sticker, and the Hungarian executive unfortunately did not have all the proper car documents.

Csurgai was lucky that the policemen brought him to Camp Crame, and not somewhere else.

In any case, after frantic phone calls and appropriate explanations and apologies, the BMW executive and his car were eventually released.

Heard through the grapevine

IT was his wife, more than the BIR termites, who convinced beleaguered Rene Bañez to finally give up the BIR commissionership. Mrs. Bañez had actually opposed her mister's going back to the government service from day one.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Petrochems in final bid to defer tariff cut

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHEN Asean's economic leaders meet in Brunei next month to discuss the implementation of Southeast Asia's free trade block next year, local petrochemical firms are hoping that Malacañang will give in to their pleas to defer scheduled tariff cuts on polymers.

Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines chair Wilfredo Paras said the Asean Free Trade Area council meeting on Sept. 11 would be the country's final chance to invoke a protocol agreement that allowed Asean members to delay tariff cuts on some of their sensitive products.

Paras asked: "If the government could continue to protect the sugar industry without any quid pro quo from other countries, couldn't it do the same for the petrochemical industry?"

Petrochemical is a strategic industry crucial to the country's development goals, he stressed.

He said the Asean common effective preferential tariff rate was not as rigid as previously held, noting that Afta was only an executive agreement compared to the World Trade Organization, which was a treaty ratified by Congress.

"What we are asking the government is to maintain the tariff protection on petrochemicals up to 2010. We think this is reasonable, considering that the petrochemical industries in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia had a head start of 10 to 20 years and duties of at least 40 percent when they started," Paras said.

Paras said the industry was merely asking the government to make up for its hasty reduction in tariffs on petrochemicals.

The petrochemical industry started only in 1997 with the start of Petrochemical Corp. of Asia-Pacific, but the government had already committed to make tariff cuts by then.

The government's headlong rush to open its market has made it difficult for petrochemical firms to stay afloat in its infant years. At least three petrochemical firms—Bataan Polyethylene, Philippine Petrochemical Products Corp. and Petrocorp—are on an extended shutdown.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said he would only push the lobby for a deferment of tariff cuts in Asean if the industry could show proof that it could build a naphtha cracker to integrate the local industry.

RP fruits get wider access to Taiwan

TAIPEI has agreed to adopt comprehensive quarantine procedures that will widen the access of Philippine fruits like mango, papaya and banana into Taiwan.

This was one of the key agreements signed during the two-day, Philippine-Taiwan 10th Joint Economic Conference in Taipei sponsored by Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Manila Economic and Cultural Office.

In a statement, Meco said the difficulty faced by Philippine fruit exporters should be addressed "more forcefully and systematically" by Taiwan's agreement to come up with an exhaustive quarantine protocol.

The protocol will lay down the detailed requirements and timetable for clearing Philippine fruits for entry into the Taiwanese market. The protocol will allow for transparency in the approval process and time limit to complete the process.

The Philippines and Taiwan earlier resolved their long-standing dispute on quarantine restrictions imposed by Taipei on exports of Philippine mangoes and young coconuts. Taiwan sent a team of phytosanitary experts here last year to pave the way for the lifting of the ban on mangoes and young coconuts.

Apart from the accord on fruit exports, both the Philippines and Taiwan have agreed to work out a system that would facilitate the exchange of information technology professionals. This will pave the way for easier access and longer stay of information technology professionals in the Philippines and Taiwan for skills upgrading and job training.

The Philippines and Taiwan have agreed to promote each other's tourism industries and production and marketing opportunities that would further boost the flow of tourists and trade between them.

The Philippines Product Development and Design Center and Taiwan's Design Promotion Center have also agreed to join hands in pooling the talents of Filipino and Taiwanese product designers to come up with better and more marketable products.

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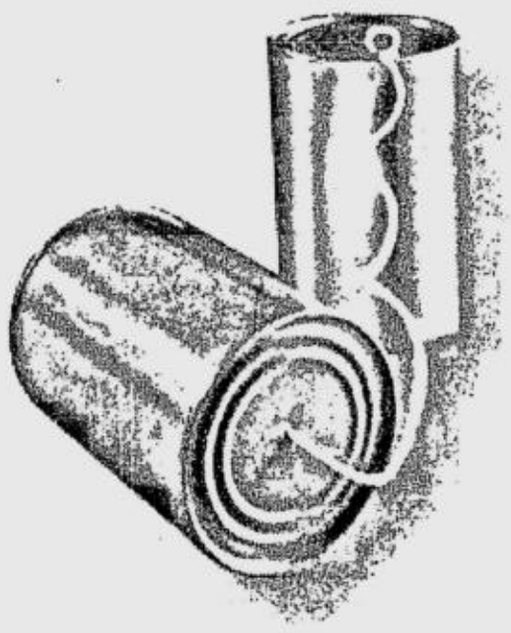

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2002

STI makes ICT learning within reach

STI
an education services group

By Joel V. Nigos

IT was during the frenzied years in the early '80s when STI was established. It was also then when IT was still alien to most Filipinos but the most opportune time for a fast growing computer industry in the Philippines.

Nineteen years after the founding of STI on 21 August 1983, the rapid advancement of technology in the global scale has now greatly influenced the way people and nations do business. A country like ours, in order not to be left behind in this digital era, should develop people armed with ICT knowledge and skills to compete in the global economy.

In order to keep pace with the growing demand for ICT professionals and ICT-enabled workers, STI, one of the country's leading providers of quality information and communications technology (ICT) learning, is now making ICT education accessible to the greatest possible number.

According to Chito B. Salazar, president and chief executive officer of STI Education Services Group, "part of our mission is to empower people through quality ICT learning to enable them to become productive and responsible members of society."

Multi-market, multi-product strategy

In order to service the ICT education needs of as many people as possible, STI has adopted a multi-market, multi-product approaching in providing ICT learning. It develops products that respond to the specific needs of different market segments.

"The key is in customer-focus. By anticipating the needs of the customer, we are able to provide education that suits the specific needs of the learner. We're making it easy for the market, we're bringing it to their level," says Salazar.

"STI has been known as a college and as an education center providing relevant tertiary ICT learning. Today, we're more than that. We now have a prep school, an academy for high school, an e-college, a professional school, among others. That's why we decided last year to re-launch as an education services group," says Salazar.

Since it started its new campaign, STI has been successful in its brand-building efforts. Among the products that STI has established to serve the specific needs of its markets are the STI Prep School, STI Academy, STI Colleges, STI Education Centers, STI e-College, iACADEMY, STI Professional Colleges, STI.net, and STI-ENI.

The STI Approach

At the core of the company's unique brand of ICT education is the STI Approach, a five-pronged integrated system that ensures the consistent quality of its learning programs throughout its network.

STI President and CEO Chito B. Salazar

These five systems are the Academic Development and Program Transfer (ADEPT), the Marketing System, the Management and Technical System, the Quality Service System, and the Lifelong Service System.

ADEPT is the vehicle by which STI's academic standards are preserved among all institutions under its fold. At the core of ADEPT are two guiding principles: maximizing value-added learning, and the delivery of consistent, high quality and cost-effective education. Key to this is the centralized nature of courseware development that allows STI to respond swiftly to any changes in the curriculum due to advances in technology. Emphasis is likewise given to faculty recruitment, accreditation and training as well as student assessment and development.

The Marketing System, on the other hand, adopts a pro-active approach in anticipating and responding to the needs of the market. STI is one of the few educational institutions that pioneered the use of advertising in communicating with its market.

Through its Management and Technical System, STI provides business partners with value-added technical and financial management services.

"STI is firmly committed to developing profitable and sustainable enterprises with all its business partners. Our franchisees are an integral component of our business and we ensure that efficiency levels are maintained in our schools," says Salazar.

The Quality Service System assures students and business partners of the best customer service. "We put our students at the center of the learning process. Our goal is to ensure that they get not only the best kind of education from our schools, but that they are treated as customers," explains Salazar.

The fifth is the Lifelong Service System, through which STI is able to help its alumni and students at different points of their careers. They become part of the Lifelong Service System the moment they enroll in any STI course. "This way STI can help upgrade your skills in whatever point in life you are, we can even place you in touch with a larger network of fellow STIers," Salazar says.

Salazar cites as an example a graduate in banking, who is now part of STI's Lifelong Service System. Five years from now, he might receive an e-mail from STI about the latest trend in banking now being offered in STI. The system is envisioned to help one in his career whatever point he is.

This five-pronged STI Approach guarantees the delivery of valuable service to STI franchisees and students as well.

"All of these five things are tied together. First, we need to change the concept of our education now. In the traditional education, people go to school at age 5 and graduate either at age 21 or 22. Actually, education especially in this technological age is a lifelong effort. Technology just changes rapidly, jobs change, requirements of skills change. So all of these things are built to respond to those changes in technology. We'll continue to update you, to upgrade your skills, we'll provide a whole service that you can have at any point in your life. The academics are there to make sure that if there are changes in technology, the curriculum should be changed. That's how the five systems work," Salazar explains.

International expansion

Salazar says that despite challenges posed by managing cost-effectively across countries and the negative perception of our country abroad, STI is advancing in its international expansion efforts.

STI is concentrating on eight countries it targets for expansion. Currently, STI Bangladesh is operational; STI Pakistan is set to open within the next year. Salazar is optimistic that by yearend, STI will reach its goal of being in eight countries, including China, Indonesia and Vietnam as huge markets. He adds that having the US in their list is a big boost to them.

With its international strategy he has outlined, Salazar hopes that in the next three years, STI will "become one of the leading brands for ICT learning in Asia."

Salazar, however, emphasizes that local dominance is still the top priority of STI. "There is still a huge untapped market locally, and we intend to strengthen our presence here. For now, we have 100 colleges and education centers for the tertiary level, and we would like to match this number for our prep schools. We want STI Prep to be present in every major city in the Philippines," Salazar says.

Socio-civic programs

In bridging the digital divide, STI through its Foundation for Leadership in Information Technology and Education, or STI FLITE, continues to promote ICT learning to other sectors.

Its Project ATTRAC, or Adaptive Technology Training, Resource and Access Center, is a unique training program on access technology for individuals with visual impairment. The project, which garnered the Kabalikat Awards last year, is a joint undertaking with Adaptive Technology for Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of Visually Impaired (ATRIEV) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

Through the Teacher Training Program STI provides free hands-on computer training to public school teachers nationwide, in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd). It is also a member of ConnectEd.ph, a consortium of private corporations that provides free computer education, hardware, and Internet connection to public schools nationwide.

STI-FLITE also gives out scholarships through tie-ups with several groups like Caritas Manila, Don Bosco, and the office of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. A unique program for a depressed Las Piñas community provides tuition, food allowance and parent training to the beneficiaries for a truly holistic approach to the awarding of scholarships.

ICT Learning Within Reach

With all its programs in place – the multi-market, multi-product strategy; the STI Approach to education; international expansion; and socio-civic activities – STI gives everyone a chance at getting highly specialized, quality ICT learning suited to his specific needs. This way, STI is making "ICT Learning Within Reach."

ICT Learning Within Reach of Everyone

STI designs products that respond to the specific needs of each market segment.

STI Prep School offers a holistic approach to early childhood education by developing a child's intellectual quotient (IQ), emotional quotient (EQ) and technological quotient (TQ). The introduction of the TQ aspect is a very important developmental component. STI Prep believes that it is a must for each and every child to have that necessary advantage as he moves on to a higher education and eventually the professional world. STI Prep School is committed to developing the child of the future, today.

STI Academy develops ICT skills in young minds all throughout basic education. Grade school and high school students are trained in the use of computers and become well versed in their applications for enhanced learning. Values formation, which promotes faith in God, love and country, and respect for human beings, are integral parts of STI Academy's holistic education.

STI Education Center provide quality, yet affordable ICT-centered education in the tertiary level for the youth all over the Philippines and abroad. STI Education Centers give technical certificate courses for computer programming, computer technician courses, software application and office administration.

STI College offers associate and baccalaureate degree programs in computer science, information management, business administration, office management and other ICT courses. Adequate computer facilities and the latest applications keep students at pace with the fast-changing world.

The **STI e-College** makes the youth experience "blended" learning—a combination of classroom and online learning. It is a system of three hybrid ("clicks and mortar") colleges that offer not face-to-face, classroom-based undergraduate degree programs in IT and business management, but also foreign world-class online degree programs in various fields. The system is the exclusive partner of the Global University Alliance (GUA) in the Philippines, a worldwide consortium of 10 universities located in Australia, the United Kingdom and North America.

The Information and Communications Technology Academy or **iACADEMY** provides ICT learning that gives the youth and professionals a chance to be Carnegie-certified. iACADEMY brings world-class ICT education to the country through its partnership with the world-famous Carnegie Technology Education (CTE) – a subsidiary of Carnegie Mellon University — a Web-based system that provides course content "any time and any place."

The **STI Professional Colleges** aim to provide aspiring professionals in healthcare, education, engineering and accountancy the chance to be globally competitive through the infusion of ICT skills in their curricula. Currently, STI Professional Colleges operate a school for nursing and physical therapy through a partnership with De Los Santos Colleges, Inc. or DLSCI.

STI-ENI provides quality ICT training for students of STI partner schools from the elementary to the college level and quality school management system for all STI schools owned and operated by its parent company. Currently, STI-ENI provides quality computer training for the grade school and high school students of Philippine Chung Hua School and Sacred Heart School of Montalban.

STI.net is for ICT learning for the youth in municipalities through an Internet café cum tutorial session's center. It gives the youth a chance to upgrade their ICT skills as well as their English and Math proficiency in preparation for college.

Global blended learning as a cost-effective way of earning foreign degrees

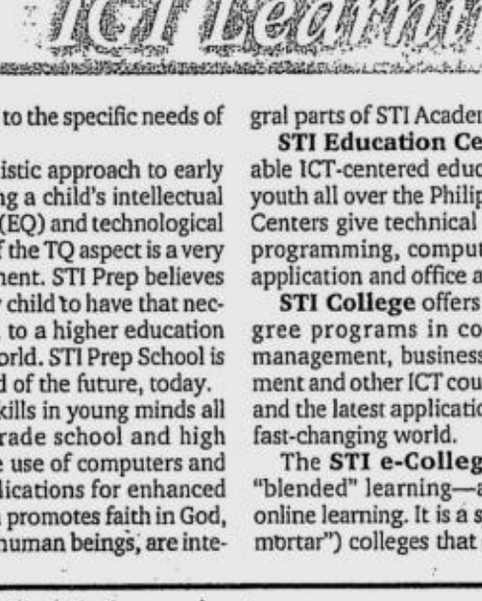
IN today's era of globalization, there is a fast growing demand for internationally reputable foreign degrees among students in developing countries because a foreign degree is perceived to be a visa to better jobs at home or abroad.

For Filipinos, the traditional mode of earning a foreign degree is to undertake full-time on-campus study for several years in a world-class foreign university, mainly in the USA.

This proves to be disadvantageous not only because of the high-cost of on-campus study abroad but also the social cost of separation from family, opportunity costs of leaving a job or business, among other things.

But according to the paper written by Dr. Roger D. Posadas, president of STI e-College, there's a cost effective way of earning foreign degrees—the Global Blended Learning.

"Global Blended Learning involves the blending of online learning with local, face-to-face, classroom-based instructor-led sessions, foreign programs and courses with local programs and courses through a system of cross-accreditation and articulation," says Posadas.



STI e-College President Dr. Roger Posadas

Thus, adds Posadas, STI eCollege's system of Global Blended Learning extends the blending of instructional methods and delivery to that of curricula and courses.

Through the blending of foreign and local curricula, a Filipino student will be able to satisfy up to 75 percent of the course requirements for a foreign online degree by completing the equivalent cross-accredited local courses.

This means that the student will be able to earn a foreign degree online at a much reduced cost.

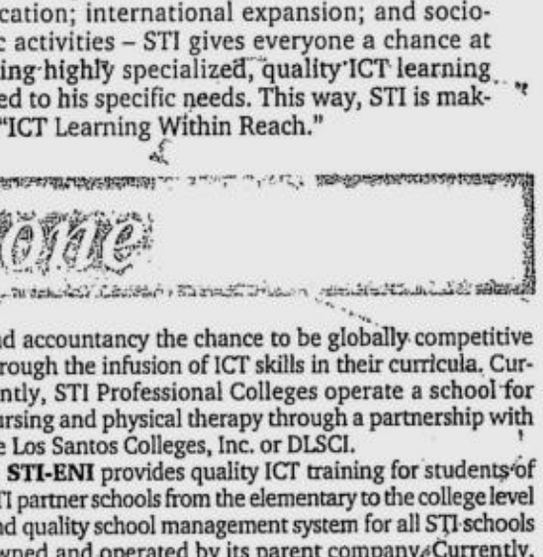
STI eCollege's system of Global Blended Learning offers a means of earning an internationally reputable foreign degree which costs much less than enrolling in a purely online program, uses a mode of learning that has been proven to be superior to either purely classroom-based or purely web-based learning, allows for the self-paced flexibility and anytime/anywhere convenience of Asynchronous online study even as it provides for the discipline and socialization of classroom-based instructor-led study, enables the student to study for a foreign degree without having to leave his/her family, job, or business, gives the student, upon completion of his/her program of study, an internationally recognized, credential that is exactly identical to the one awarded a graduate of the corresponding on-campus program abroad.

Bridging the gap between the graduates schools produce and the graduates industry needs

INFORMATION and communications technology (ICT) grows at such a fast pace. Its rapid advancement puts pressure on graduates to continuously satisfy the demands of the industry. Essentially, there is a gap between the quality of skilled ICT graduates and the actual needs of the industry.

iACADEMY, the Philippine partner of Carnegie Technology Education, a subsidiary of Carnegie Mellon University (dubbed as the no. 1 software school in the world), intends to bridge this gap by putting students in the business and IT environments while still in school to gain industry-relevant work experience before graduation.

This is one reason why iACADEMY was set up right in the heart of the country's Central Business District — to keep its students close to businesses that will soon require their ICT and business skills. iACADEMY's strategy bodes well for the future human resource needs of the ICT industry. Students will benefit from this setup because their learnings are more grounded on practical ICT applications, not just theories. During their seven- to eight-month internship program, they will be working full-time in iACADEMY's partner companies, further strengthening their ICT skills.



iAcademy Dean and COO Mitch Andaya

iACADEMY also plans to get the best possible teachers from executives and practitioners working in the country's best ICT companies, all located in the Makati area.

iACADEMY dean and chief operating officer Mitch Andaya is confident that these programs will eventually bridge the gap between the industry's demands and the IT schools graduates.

Students will benefit from this setup because their learnings are more grounded on practical ICT applications, not just theories

"The Great Evolution"
STI 19th Anniversary Programme

30 August 2002
Enchanted Kingdom

10:00 – 10:30 AM Parade of Colors

The 17 cluster representatives and contestants will be recognized. A short opening ceremony will open the talent search.

Hosted by: Bill Cosme and DJ Crystal

10:30 – 11:30 AM Ballroom Dancing Finals
12:30 – 2:00 PM Pop Song Duet Finals
2:00 – 4:00 PM Hataw Sayaw Finals
4:00 – 7:00 PM Mr. & Ms. STI Finals

Hosted by: Hans Montenegro and Miriam Quiambao

7:00 – 8:00 PM Awarding Ceremonies
- Alumni
- Academic Competitions
- Social Competitions

8:00 PM Concert
- Competition Winners
- Guest Talents
- Guest Bands

STI Prep School

STI Academy

STI College

STI students competing in teh Digital Survivor at SM Megamall last May, 2002.

BIG PARTY MARKS STI's 19TH ANNIVERSARY

How does one celebrate a birthday a year shy of its 20th? With a party that is, one that promises to be big, loud and very noisy.

And that's exactly what will happen when STI takes 12,000 of its students to the Enchanted Kingdom this 30th of August in a grand birthday celebration.

But more than just a celebration, the event will be the venue for the awarding of STI students who excelled in academic and talent competitions.

"Tagisan ng Talino" is a competition among all STI schools in INTO Programming, a contest in developing computer programs; IT Matters, an IT quiz; Stand and Deliver, an extemporaneous speech competition, and A Tale to Tell, a short-story telling contest.

The grand finals for INTO Programming will be held on August 28 at iACADEMY, while that of IT Matters, A Tale to Tell, and Stand up and Deliver, will be on August 29 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

Aside from the Tagisan ng Talino awarding ceremonies, the anniversary celebration will also be the venue for the grand finals for the STI Duet Singing Contest, dancing competitions.

Capping these festivities is the search for the Mr. and Ms. STI 2002, a much-awaited and anticipated event of STI as a family all these years, notwithstanding their search for excellence and a firm commitment by STI to give the best computer education to their students.

The one-day celebration will be big in scope and sound, made even noisier by a free concert led by the Rivermaya and exciting young stars like Camille Pratts, Danilo Barrios, Paula Peralejo, Leandro Munoz, Tin Arnaldo, Luis Alandy, and Michelle Bayle. Also on hand to entertain guests are emcees Bill Cosme and DJ Crystal (for the major competitions) and well-known TV hosts Hans Montenegro and Miriam Quiambao (for the Mr and Ms STI final competition).

We can help you grow with the changing world.

STI believes that keeping up with the changes in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is just a first step to succeed in the future. The greater challenge lies in making ICT relevant to everyone,anywhere in the world.

STI provides quality ICT learning that goes beyond the classroom, into the offices, into the homes and into the lives of people.

We build bridges of learning, enabling people to become fulfilled and responsible citizens of the global community. With highly relevant ICT-centered education, you can grow with the changing world.

STI. ICT Learning Within Reach.

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• Corinthian Gardens of **BULACAN** Existing clubhouse, swimming pools Ready title, very fresh environment 1.5M Also Investment lots 3000,000 Only 6339199 • 6375568 9145006 • 09179380899

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Lot For Sale Gated Subd. Irizan, Baguio City 180m² 1,700m² Call: Jovy 801-7051 Cell#(0917)837-5382

RUSH SALE IN THE MIDDLE OF TAGAYTAY P1,500/sqm 4,000sqm T-6337601-03

Vigan Ilocos Sur 2000m² - 700/sqm Lyn 6437263 Arnold 2425591

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

MKTI NEW 1 BR P3.5M 0916-3725766

•Yulo 2BR/2TB P4M 8424921•

MANILA

MALATE P1.7M UP, MOVE IN@30% D/P, BAL SYRS: 0917-8485621

Woodside NMla 3BR 2CG Sale / Rent • 915-5177

MANDALUYONG

BUY LOW, SELL HIGH Only 1.5M STUDIO UNIT with Wack Wack Golf Course View! 6339199 • 6375568 9145006 • 09179380899

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PASIG

Alexandra 3BR 250 sqm garden view T-6337601-03

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QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

EASTWOOD 1-2BR ready for occupancy T-6337601-03

WEST AVENUE P3.5MT422-0277;913-1737

Rush Landsdale 45.34sqm FFurnish P2M 09202201489

Xavierville Near Ateneo 2BR Furnishd 0917-3955738

SAN JUAN

Garden Island Condo 3BR 6.3M Bargain2carpark RUSHII4121825

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RUSH SALE FACTORY/WHOUSE/RES Price: 50M (neg) Loc.: Sn Vicente, Sn Pedro, Laguna 5Kms fr. Southwood Ex. AREA: 29313sqm (0916)4231157 • (0919)5797174

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APARTMENT

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QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Female P3.5 4381480

Horseshoe P5-6T for 2/3 people 8511812/7272028

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

4BR/4TB/FF TAHANAN Call: 0918-5178293/0916-3802665

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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PARANAQUE

Merville 4BR TEL-5200075

PASIG

Valle Verdel 16500 Flurn 2br 123m² spool mdsrm 2588019

CONDO/TWNHSE

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2BR Pillila St. 5218333

Makati 2-3BR #5200075

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Palm Village Nr. Rockwell 3BR 25T/mo. 0917-3955738

MANDALUYONG

2BR WkWack 0918-9242622

PASIG

Jollibee Plz ofc 109m²-150m² 4121825 ; 09177914366

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New 1 BR Condo QC 8156172/6173722

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53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

Whse-PSG 1000@65T/mo. 6427246

ROOM & BOARD

Ldy Mkt 8950134 / 8907136

Magallanes Vill. 852-6918

Proj4,JP Rizal w/tb 9420612

Roommate 0917-7953871 QC M

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NISSAN

VANETTE dsl 198T 926-7433

OPEL

• 99 Vectra P820T 8509118 •

TOYOTA

97 CAMRY T526-8048

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CARS

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P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

STAREX L300 CARS 726-8388

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1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000165 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

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MERCHADISER 527-6418

OFC STAFF 09165218535 ECHO

OFC STAFF 09174633208 FERDIE

OFC STFI LK4 JENG 7492993

SEC/CLERK 7136116 MS. RED

SURVEY CONTROLLER (CAD Operator) 843-2596

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ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

TOEFL/TSE REVIEW 527-1590

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Forbes Park 7137030

Business w/Travel 0916-9368917

EARN 5T+/WK COL 8691108

PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late SOTERO T. SEGUI, SR. located at Rizal, Cagayan was been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement of estate ratified before Notary Public Atty. Romulo S. Urrea under Doc. No. 469; Page No. 95; Book No. LXV; Series of 2002 dated May 4, 2002. (PDI-Aug. 7,14, & 21, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given for the loss of two (2) booklets of PROVISIONAL RECEIPTS with series numbers: Provisional receipts nos. 80151 to 80200 Provisional receipt nos. 40401 to 40450 Owned by **Equitable Securities (Phil.) Inc.** Note: The above-mentioned receipts are not consumed. (PDI-Aug. 21, 28 & Sept. 4 2002)

The WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT-PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT

a project of the Government of the Philippines, executed by the Department of Health with funding support from the European Union (EU)

The Project works with its Partners the DOH Centers for Health Development, LGUs and NGOs, using community health development strategies and techniques to enable women at the barangay level to identify their health needs and be involved in developing and implementing plans to achieve positive changes for health.

The Project has been granted a 15 month Extension, which will begin on 17 September 2002, and is now seeking highly qualified and experienced

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCE PERSONNEL

☐ Human Resource Management Officer

The person we are seeking: will have a degree in Psychology or other relevant area of study, with relevant post graduate study/training and at least 3 years experience in various aspects of human resource management. They must have experience of Government policies and civil service rules and regulations; be familiar with policies and procedures of government mandated benefits such as SSS, Pag-Ibig, Medicare and leave provisions; and must demonstrate initiative, a strong commitment to excellence and merit principles as well as a highly developed sense of responsibility and integrity. Experience/familiarity with HRM practice in the context of foreign assisted development projects would be an advantage.

☐ Personnel Assistant

The person we are seeking: will have a degree in Psychology or other relevant area of study with at least 2 years experience in various aspects of human resource management. They will provide general assistance to the Human Resource Management Officer in the development and implementation of human resource management activities of the Project.

☐ Accountant

The person we are seeking: will have a degree in Commerce, major in Accounting, and be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with at least 5 years experience. They will provide general assistance to the FAD Chief and FA Consultant in the development and implementation of the accounting and budget systems of the Project; and must be familiar with the use of government accounting and budgeting. They must demonstrate initiative, a strong commitment to excellence and transparency as well as a well developed sense of responsibility and integrity.

☐ Budget Officer

The person we are seeking: will have a degree in Commerce, major in Accounting, economics or business administration and have at least 2 years work experience in accounting and budgeting. They will provide general assistance to the Accountant in developing and implementing the accounting and budget systems of the Project, and must be familiar with the use of government accounting and budgeting procedures and practices.

ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.

Interested and Qualified Applicants should submit their letter of response and a comprehensive resume, by email or fax on or before close of business on Monday 26 August 2002, to:

WHSM-PC

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
Women's Health Project—Partnerships Component
5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406 E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph

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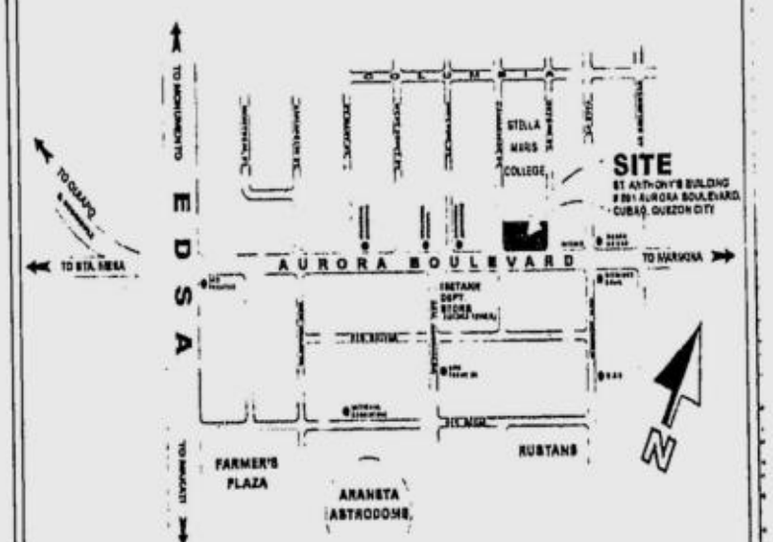

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(with specific requirements)

I. **Adult Cardiology**
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- PCP Diplomate

II. **Pediatric Cardiology**
- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

III. **Thoracic And Cardiovascular Surgery**
- 5 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS
- must have passed certifying examination given by the PBS (Board eligible / Diplomate)
- at least qualified to take PBS certifying examination and the submission of satisfactory results of the in-service training examinations

IV. **Pulmonary Medicine**
- PCP Diplomate

V. **Anesthesiology**
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)
- 3 month (October to December) pre-fellowship (except for graduates of the Philippine Heart Center Anesthesia Residency Program)

VI. **1 Year Clinical Research Fellowship for** Non-Invasive Cardiology, Invasive Cardiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Critical Care Medicine, Electrophysiology, Peripheral Vascular Medicine, Pediatric Invasive & Non-Invasive Cardiology, Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery and Pulmonary Medicine
1 Year Fellowship Program for Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, and Biological and Clinical Laboratory

RESIDENCY (QUERT not required) fill up application at DOH for matching (for Medical Board Passers)
I. Radiology
II. Nuclear Medicine
III. Biological and Clinical Laboratory (Pathology)

General Requirements for Application for Fellowship & Residency:
1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

** Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2002*
** Academic Year 2003 starts on January 1, 2003*

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09196239902) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09207645273) with Te. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

(PDI--Aug. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2002)

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE

BULLETIN OF VACANT REGULAR POSITIONS
(In compliance with RA 7041)

(1) Senior Education Program Specialist - SG 19; Item No. OSEC-DECSB-SREPS-40-1998; Bachelor's degree in Education or its equivalent and completion of academic requirements for Master's degree relevant to the job; 2 years experience in education, research development implementation or other relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; PBET; Teacher/Career Service (Professional) appropriate Eligibility for Second Level Position.

(1) Engineer III - SG 19, Item No. OSEC-DECSB-ENG3-4-1998; Bachelor's degree in Engineering relevant to the job; 2 years of relevant experience, 8 hours of relevant training; Passed Engineering Licensure Exam (RA 1080).

(2) Engineer II - SG 16, Item Nos. OSEC-DECSB-ENG2-2-1998 and OSEC-DECSB-ENG2-5-1998; Bachelor's degree in Engineering relevant to the job; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Passed Engineering Licensure Exam (RA 1080).

(1) Accountant II - SG 15; Item Nos. OSEC-DECSB-A2-18-1998; Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Business Admin; Major in Accounting; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training, RA 1080 (licensed; CPA).

(3) Engineer I - SG 12, Item Nos. OSEC-DECSB-ENG1-1-1998; OSEC-DECSB-ENG1-2-1998 and OSEC-DECSB-ENG1-3-1998; Bachelor's degree in Engineering relevant to the job, RA 1080 (passed licensure exam); with at least 6 months experience and training preferred.

(2) Accounting Clerk II - SG 6; Item Nos. OSEC-DECSB-AC2-8-1998 and OSEC-DECSB-AC2-9-1998; Completion of two years studies in college; Career Service (Subprofessional), First Level Eligibility; with at least 6 months experience and training preferred.

(1) Clerk III - SG 6, Item No. OSEC-DECSB-CK3-21-1998; Completion of two years studies in college; Career Service (Subprofessional); First Level Eligibility; with at least 6 months experience and training preferred.

(1) Cash Clerk I - SG 4; Item No. OSEC-DECSB-CHCI-2-1998; Completion of two years studies in college; Career Service (Subprofessional); First Level Eligibility; at least 6 months experience and training preferred.

Qualified applicants must send their resumé, transcript of records, recent ID picture and other credentials to:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE
DepEd-EDPITAF
Dorm D. DepEd Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Deadline for submission of application: August 30, 2002

Republic of the Philippines
Asian Development Bank-Assisted
Philippine Regional Municipal Development Project
City of Puerto Princesa

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date:	19 August 2002
ADB Loan No.	1367-PHI
MDF Subloan No.	03-96 (PHI)
Subproject No.	003 (PHI)

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank, herein referred to as the "Bank", in various currencies towards the cost of the Philippine Regional Municipal Development Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under contract(s) or the Supply and Delivery of various Sanitary Landfill equipment.
2. The City of Puerto Princesa, an Implementing Agency for the Project now invites sealed bids from the eligible bidders from member countries of the Bank for the supply and delivery of various Sanitary Landfill equipment as follows:

   Item No.1 One (1) unit Wheel Type Landfill Compactor with Dozer Blade
   Item No. 2 One (1) unit Dump Truck, 4x2, 15 tonner, 3-way tipper

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of

   THE CHAIRMAN
   Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee
   c/o PRMDP Project Action Unit, City Hall
   Sta. Monica, City of Puerto Princesa

4. A complete set of bidding documents can be acquired by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP3,000.00 per Contract Package. Bid Documents will be available on 19 August 2002 until 10 October 2002. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **16 September 2002** at the above address.
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security or Bank Guarantee of Five Percent (5%) of the total Bid Price and must be delivered in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders on or before **17 October 2002** immediately after which bids will be publicly opened.
6. Bidders may submit bids for any or all of the items and quotations must be for any or all the equipment items and at full quantity/ies described under this contract package being bidded.
7. The City of Puerto Princesa reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality contained therein and accept offers most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ALEN ROSS B. RODRIGUEZ**
PBAC Chairman (Representative of the City Mayor)

(PDI--Aug. 21, 25 & 27, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

PRC Resolution No. 2002 - 58
July 30, 2002

POLICY FOR MARINE DECK AND MARINE ENGINEER OFFICERS WHO SUBMITTED FAKE/ FRAUDULENT CERTIFICATE/S

WHEREAS, Regulation I/5 (National Provisions) of the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended in 1995, provides that each Party shall establish processes and procedures for the impartial investigation of any reported act or commission that may pose a direct threat to the safety of life or property at sea.

WHEREAS, Section 24 of Republic Act No. 8544, otherwise known as the "Philippine Merchant Marine Act of 1993", provides the grounds upon which a marine deck and marine engineer officer may be proceeded against administratively, among which is the "use of perpetuation of any fraud or deceit in obtaining Certificate of Registration or Certificate of Competency".

WHEREAS, the Commission shall have to institutionalize a policy that will deal with marine deck and marine engineer officers who submitted fake/fraudulent document/s in the application for licensure examination or for the issuance of STCW '95 Certificates.

WHEREFORE, the Commission hereby promulgates as follows:

1. A marine deck or marine engineer officer who has been found/discovered to have submitted fake/fraudulent document/s in his application for licensure examination and/ or for the issuance of STCW '95 Certificates shall be promptly charged administratively before the Board of Marine Deck or Board of Marine Engineer Officers, respectively.
2. The processing of his application shall be discontinued outright and no STCW '95 Certificates shall be issued. A re-application, upon the ground that the marine officer is submitting genuine documents, shall not be accepted or entertained except when his case has been finally resolved or decided, and he is found not guilty or if found guilty, he has already served the penalty imposed.
3. Under no circumstance shall a marine deck or marine engineer officer who has a pending administrative case shall be issued STCW '95 Certificate/s.
4. The Commission shall furnish the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) with a list of marine deck and marine engineer officers with pending and decided administrative cases who have been issued STCW '95 Certificates, in order that they shall no longer be issued by the POEA the appropriate document/s to enable them to board seagoing ships until their cases have been decided with finality and have fully served the corresponding penalty imposed by the Board.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Manila, Philippines

(Sgd.) **ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE**
Chairperson

(Sgd.) **ALFONSO G. ABAD** Commissioner
(Sgd.) **AVELINA DE LA REA-TAN** Commissioner

(PDI--Aug 21, 2002)

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OBITUARIES

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So truly missed
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Dr. NELLY ENRIQUEZ ALABANZA, Ed. D.

of BAGUIO CITY

BORN TO EARTHLY LIFE JAN. 28, 1935
BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE AUG. 19, 2002
at the age of 67.

loving husband **JOSEPH "Jody"**
children & grandchildren
LEONARD and **PATRICIA, Anginelle, Martin, Catherine,**
MARY ANNE A. and **TIM AKERS, Aubrey,**
DENIS and **PATRICIA**

brothers and sisters
ANTONIO and **FRANCES ENRIQUEZ**
NORMA and **DELFIN SIMBRA**

MOTHER in-law, BROTHERS & SISTERS in-law,
step BROTHER and SISTERS
in-laws, **Othelo & Evangeline Caro, Leonardo & Rebecca Valmonte**
other RELATIVES and FRIENDS

Request you to join us in prayer as we remember **NELLY's** legacy of love, care and concern for others.

Her remains will be available for viewing at the Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., the wholeday of Wednesday, August 21 and later transferred to Baguio. Interment will be on Wednesday, August 28, at the Baguio Cemetery after the NECROLOGICAL SERVICES at the Baguio Cathedral.

(In lieu of flowers, donations to the BLOGA Cuddies' Scholarship Fund and the DSWD Orphanage at La Trinidad will be deeply appreciated.)

"Whoever finds his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
Matthew 10:39

FRANCISCA DEL ROSARIO TORRES

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 16, 2002
at the age of 95.

Her loving husband **Jose L. Torres** (+); children **Rodolfo** (+) & **Conching** (+), **Jose Jr.** & **Alice, Alicia** & **Pablo Santos, Alfredo** & **Chuchi, Emmanuel** & **Connie, Carlota** & **Willie Buhain, Hermie** & **Julie, Olivia** & **Sonny Balagtas, Antonio**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on August 29, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Please omit flowers.

Our Apologies.

The obituary of **Dr. Jesus Keyser Mercado**, dated August 20, should have read as follows, *"His children Pilar, Severino, Erlinda, Vicente, George•, Carmen Leonor, Natividad and Teresita, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul."*

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

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The Board of Directors, Officers and Employees of

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT)

condole with the family of their **Director, the Rev Fr Bienvenido F Nebres, SJ**
on the loss of his beloved mother

Asuncion Florendo Nebres

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 19, 2002 at the age of 96.

Her bereaved husband Dr. Bienvenido D. Nebres, deceased; children Sr. Josefina F. Nebres; ICM; Fr Bienvenido F Nebres, SJ; Engr. Antonio F. Nebres; daughter-in-law Carmen Sagun; and grandchildren Ma. Concepcion and Antonio; Dr. Jose S. Nebres; daughter-in-law Flor Pe-Aguirre, and grandchildren Michelle Nebres and husband Geoffrey Swire and Joey V. Nebres; Rosario Nebres Dechaves and son-in-law Oscar D. Dechaves; and Paulita Nebres Dizon; son-in-law Teodoro R. Dizon; and grandchildren Ma. Teresa, Paolo and Ana Lisa.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel (Solace 2), 12 Gregorio Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

Our Most Sincere Thanks

We, the family of the late

Atty. DAISY G. ZAMBRANO

are deeply grateful for your show of love and concern through your presence at the wake and funeral rites, the beautiful flowers, kind words, card, love gifts, songs, music, prayers, and for being with us and helping us in countless ways.

We find strength in knowing that DAISY was very much loved.

Her memory will live on in the hearts and minds of all of us whose lives she has touched.

Mamang **Pinay, Leni, Art, Armando, Angie, Melody, Gladys, Dave, Lendell, Lester, Tina, Ayn Ruth, Leanne, Dino, Jaja, Kevin, Dazha, Alain & Jelai**

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

ZAMBRANO & GRUBA
LAW OFFICES
wish to thank all those who,
upon the demise of its founding partner,

Atty. DAISY G. ZAMBRANO

offered prayers, Masses, flowers, tributes, and help in various immeasurable ways.

In Loving Memory

on the First Death Anniversary of

EUSEBIO "BOIE" PEÑA-CORPUS

(April 16, 1948- August 22, 2001)

His wife **Linda**; children **Buddy** and **Mylene**; relatives and friends are offering the following Masses on Thursday, August 22, 2002 at the following churches:

San Felipe Neri Parish, *Mandaluyong City* ..... 7:00 AM
Mary the Queen Parish, *San Juan, Metro Manila* ..... 6:00 AM
Santuario de San Jose, *Greenhills, San Juan* ..... 6:15 AM
Villa San Miguel Chapel, *Mandaluyong City* ..... 6:15 AM
Immaculate Concepcion Parish, ... 6:00 AM
Pasig, Metro Manila
Stella Orientis Oratory, ... 7:45 AM
University of Asia and the Pacific
Santuario de San Antonio, ... 12:15 NN, 6:00 PM
Forbes Park, Makati
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, ... 6:30 AM, 6:30 PM
Bel-Air, Makati
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Parish, ... 6:00 PM
New Manila, QC
Holy Spirit Parish, *BF Homes, QC* ..... 6:00 AM

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Message of Thanks

The family of the late

ROMEO E. BARTOLOME

of Gubat, Sorsogon and Pasig City
who passed away on August 7, 2002.

sincerely thank all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, gave generous gifts, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites, extended their support and services countless ways, and who condoled and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Maraming salamat po.

ASUNCION FLORENDO NEBRES

August 11, 1906 – August 19, 2002
of Bacnotan, La Union

Returned to our Lord, Giver of Life,
in the early morning of August 19.

Children **Sr. Josefina, ICM, Fr. Ben, S.J., Tony** and **Menchu, Pepe** and **Flor, Rose** and **Oscar Dechavez, Paulita** and **Teddy Dizon**; grandchildren **Maria** and **Jette, Michelle** and **Geoff Swire, Joey, Tetet, Paolo** and **Ana**; and her brother **Alfredo.**

Monday, August 19 to Saturday, August 24- Wake at Arlington Memorial Chapel. Mass at 8:00 p.m.

On Sunday, August 25, she will be moved to the Ateneo campus and she will be waked at the Ateneo High School Chapel and Masses will also be at 8:00 p.m.

The funeral Mass will be on Wednesday, August 28 at 8:30 a.m. at the Ateneo Church of the Gesú. Interment will follow at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

FRANCISCO (JIMMY) L. CHUA, JR.

who joined his Creator on August 15, 2002

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

'Bob Rosner Live! In Manila' energizes Pinoy work force

MANY THANKS to Inquirer's partners for the premier learning event for people at work nationwide. (First row, from left) GMA Network's chair, Atty. Felipe Gozon, Microdata's president Mariano Ang, Power Book's operations manager Gabby Licauco. (Second row, from left) McGraw Hill's general manager Estela Suyat, Philamlife's PR manager Marnie Angeles, Single Search Phil.'s president Mary An Go, MBC's president Ruperto Nicdao, Jr. (Third row, from left) PLDT's vice president Butch Jimenez, WG&A's PR manager Gina Virtusio, Northwest Airlines' marketing communications manager Adin Gonzales

PHILIPPINE Society for Training and Development (PSTD) Board of Directors with Inquirer SVP for Sales & Marketing Rene Reinoso, Marketing Services Head Donald Lim and Optimus representatives to support Bob Rosner Live! In Manila

LAST Aug. 14 and 15, People at Work Live! Seminar Series brought international columnist and author Bob Rosner to the country. Entitled "Bob Rosner Live! in Manila," the seminar was attended by close to a thousand participants at the Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1.

Bob Rosner, who flew in from Seattle, combined fun and drama in his talk, "12 Steps to Better Bossing" and "Managing Against the Odds." He discussed how one--whether he's a boss or an employee--can survive and thrive in the workplace jungle. Using real-life examples, Rosner made the audience laugh and ponder all throughout the seminar. Complimentary copies of Rosner's book, "The Boss's Survival Guide," calculators and bags were raffled off, courtesy of McGraw Hill Education. Insurance coverages were also given away by Philamlife to lucky participants.

Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto gave the welcome remarks. She said that "Continuous learning will enable the workforce to acquire competencies that are at par with the best in the world. It will instill in citizens the discipline so badly needed to have a peaceful and highly productive society. Continuous learning will enable the Philippines and the Filipino professional, employee and entrepreneur to take their rightful place in the global community, respected for their excellence and values."

Ms Moje Ramos Aquino, president of Paradigms and Paradoxes, delivered a one-hour presentation on "Innovation" before each of Rosner's talks on Aug. 15.

GMA Network's news anchor and executive, Mike Enriquez hosted the special seminar for corporate sponsors on Aug. 14 while Mia Acuna, Optimus Marketing Director, and Ricky Garcia, Optimus Media Projects and Events Director, emceed the Aug. 15 seminars.

The Bob Rosner Live! in Manila was made possible by companies who care for people at work: GMA Network Inc., the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, Northwest Airlines, Equitable PCI Bank, Power Books Specialty Store, McGraw Hill Education, Mandarin Oriental Manila, Voyages and Vacations, Microdata Systems and Management Inc., Paradigms and Paradoxes Consultants, WG&A Philippines, Philamlife, Land Bank of the Philippines, INQ7 Interactive Inc., Manila Broadcasting Company, ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Working Mom, Edsamail Philippines and Single Search Philippines. The seminar series was organized by Optimus Managers and Advisors, Inc., a management and consultancy firm that provides services in the areas of project development and management, human resources management and marketing services.

SAKSI news anchor Mike Enriquez witnesses Working Wounded author Bob Rosner in action

WINSOME McGraw Hill marketing executive Jenny Javier gives away prizes. PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON AND ROCHE LEONOR

With survival guide in hand, INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto gets some tips from author Bob Rosner

PARADIGMS president Moje Ramos Aquino dishes out Innovation prequel to Bob's seminars

Emotional intelligence...

From p. B11

oping them to become leaders.

The story of Marissa is different. Marissa had always been at the top of her class. She was a valedictorian in both elementary and high school, and was editor of the high school organ. In UP where she took up AB Economics, she was consistently a university scholar and graduated magna cum laude.

Moods

Her roommate in the dorm and two close friends from high school were her only friends. These friends had gotten used to Marissa's moods and tolerated the times when she would isolate herself from them while she was studying or working on her term papers. Her mother was always visiting her, bringing her food and new clothes and giving food and gifts to her close friends with the advice, "*Pasensiyahan na lang ninyo si* Marissa. *Kilala naman ninyo siya.*" ("Be patient with Marissa. You know her well enough."). It was actually a plea for increased understanding and tolerance.

Although she had three other younger siblings, Marissa was the apple of her parents' eyes. Her academic achievements were her parents' pride and joy.

She had no problem getting a job. Her entry job at a multi-national consumer company was that of brand assistant. After only a year, she was made assistant brand manager. After the successful launching of a line of feminine products and other projects she handled, she was promoted to Brand Manager. She was very analytical and good in strategy formulation. Her advertising and promotional materials were very creative. She was successful in launching new products.

Task-oriented

She was not very popular or close to her colleagues although they recognized her ability. She preferred to work and be by herself, rather than join and socialize with her officemates even during lunch breaks. To her, getting the task done was more important than socializing. Thus, the other Brand Managers, failing in their efforts to reach out to her, just left her alone.

Because of her track record, she was later promoted to sales director. She started working with the salesmen to familiarize herself with their working habits and to get acquainted with key contacts among the major outlets. In the course of working with them, she noticed that some salesmen were not exerting as much effort as they should and that some opportunities were being missed out because of inaction on the part of the salesmen. She felt that the sales force could do much more than what they were currently achieving.

Marissa started raising the standards of performance and monitoring closely the salesmen's activities, especially those of the supervisors. She felt some supervisors were sleeping on the job and were tolerating laxity in their team, especially in monitoring sales activities and controlling expenses. She started giving direct orders to salesmen, which supervisors resented.

Negative approach

During operations meetings, she would publicly castigate supervisors whose areas were not doing well. She refused to accept reasons or excuses. Sometimes, she would dare supervisors to "quit the job if you can't do it!" Then, she conducted random audits, which uncovered discrepancies in the field reports and cash collections. Heads began to roll. "I don't care who gets hurt. But I intend to clean up this mess," she would tell the field sales force during meetings.

(More on Mario and Marissa next week.)

One needs to have EQ to be effective and to succeed in one's career

The right people...

From p. B11

Of course it really isn't as simplistic as that. Gaining and maintaining customers, whether from easy or difficult markets, is a process that goes beyond the selling effort. Keeping a good reputation, giving quality customer service, streamlining our procedures to be more responsive and timely, excellent management--all these are required to achieve this objective.

PaW: How do you position your company in the market to beat the competition?

Hofileña: Our company already enjoys a good reputation for financial competence and stability, but this is not enough. We need to augment that foundation by positioning Philamlife as the most comprehensive provider of personal or commercial insurance and financial service products. We also declare our multinational character and present our global credentials by being a member company of one of the world's most successful diversified financial organization--the American International Group.

How do we communicate all these? Our advertising strategy focuses on telling people who we are and, more importantly, what we do through our products and services. We supplement this by also conducting community-based activities or engaging in events sponsorships to further associate our brand with certain markets or advocacies. We state our performance credentials to the public and we are confident that they will recognize the merit and value of our business results, and will want us to take care of them. We never try to discredit our competition because this is simply bad taste, unethical and improper.

PaW: What are the ways to dispel negative sales stereotypes?

Hofileña: I guess the first thing we have to do is understand why there are negative sales stereotypes to begin with. After more than two decades in the sales management profession I have probably heard or encountered every kind of profile of undesirable salespeople. So we work hard with our own agents to improve their people-handling skills as well as communication abilities. If we can't correct them, we would be prepared to eventually lose them. We also make ourselves very sensitive to client feedback. Customer sentiments and complaints are taken seriously in the entire organization. They need to be addressed swiftly and satisfactorily and this helps to reduce the negative consequences of improper sales approaches.

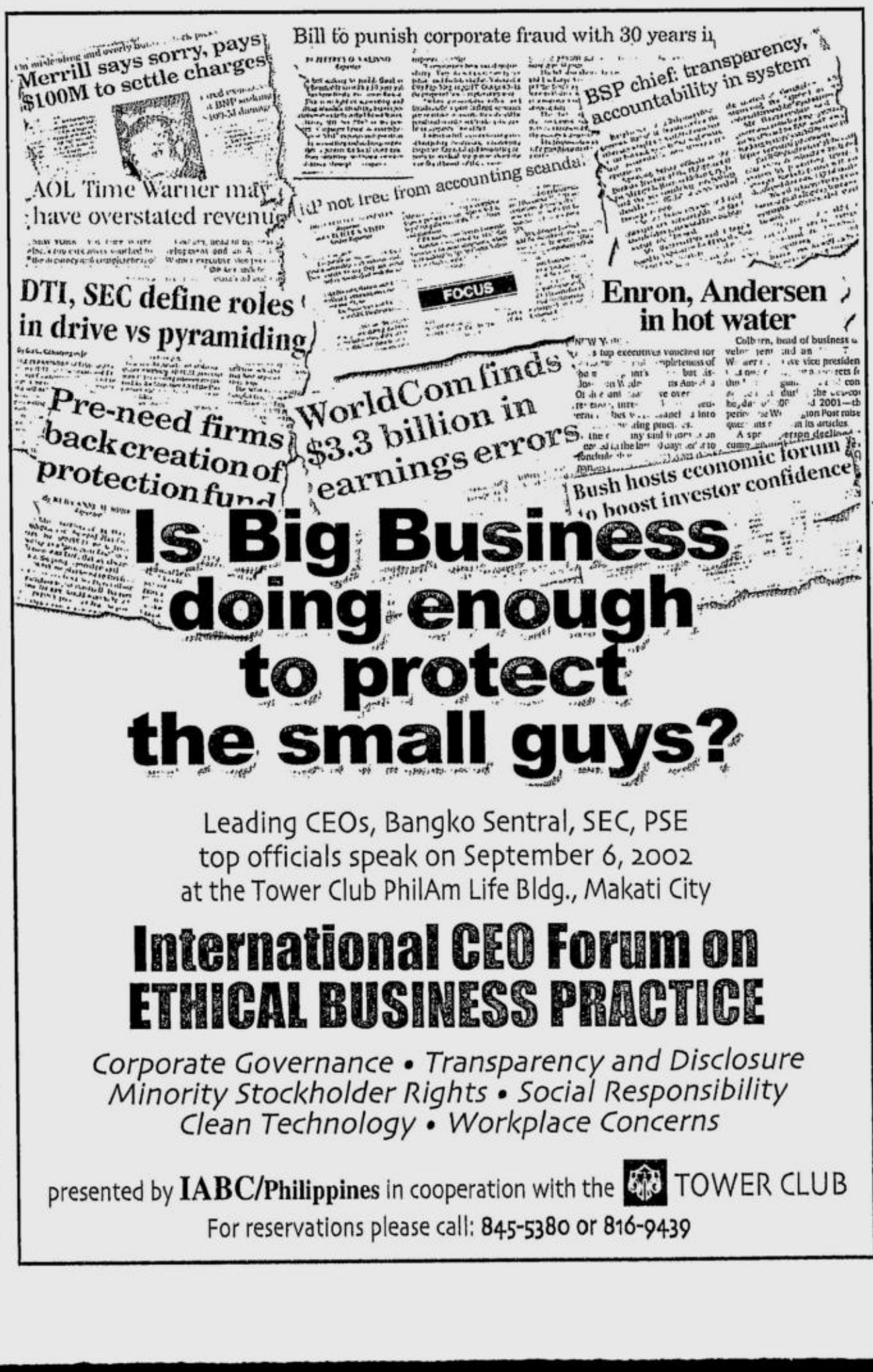
I believe Philamlife was the first insurance company to put up a Business Compliance Office and this office serves as a key mechanism to right wrongful and adverse sales situations. To sum up, the only way to minimize such instances is by nipping them in the bud. When we fail to do so, however, we have to take corrective measures swiftly.

PaW: What do you think is the key to winning the sales race?

Hofileña: Without a doubt, the key is people. We must have the right people for the organization. No one single strategy for keeping Philamlife's edge will ever succeed if it does not have the right personnel, whether in the sales organization or in the employee force. We can conceptualize and introduce the best products in the industry, we can utilize the largest resources, and we can establish the widest infrastructure in the entire country, but if we simply do not have the kind of dedicated and loyal agents as well as employees we have always been blessed with, Philamlife will not excel and be the constant frontrunner in the sales race.

Having the right people in all areas of the organization does not happen naturally. Hence the biggest obligation of the company is precisely to mold our people to rise to the challenges of the times. Again I must relate this to culture building, and in Philamlife there is a family culture of interdependency and intense pride for the company. Family because ranks and positions do not get in the way of our camaraderie and friendships. Interdependency because we recognize that each one plays a role in the entire drama, and no role is insignificant.

In every race there has to be a winner, but that winner is not only the person who crosses the finish line first. Supporting that athlete is an entire core of people-coaches, staff, fans, family members and friends. For us to always win, we have to attract winners and keep them winning.



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PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Emotional intelligence gets you promoted

By Josie O. Santamaria

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

(Starting this issue, we will be publishing a series of articles by career development expert Josie Santamaria which will comprehensively tackle the issue of emotional intelligence at work. These articles are based on research and actual case studies. - PaW Ed.)

IQ gets you a job, but EQ propels your career. This is the finding of several studies on emotional intelligence, commonly called EQ or EI. Emotional intelligence (EQ) encompasses intrapersonal and interpersonal intelligences and other dimensions.

Human beings are endowed by God with eight different intelligences--linguistic, musical, logical-mathematical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal and naturalist. This discovery five decades ago has brought about the realization that there is no person who is "*bobo*" or "stupid." Every person is intelligent in some thing. In fact, there are many with several intelligences.

Unfortunately, the home and the school often recognize and reward only the logical-mathematical, spatial and linguistic intelligences which taken together, form the IQ. These are the ones that tend to be emphasized and developed. EQ is not given the importance it deserves.

Key to career advancement

The workplace is another matter. Here, EQ is essential to career advancement. One with a low IQ or below average IQ will have difficulty passing the usual tests given for employment. But once a person gets the job, he needs to have EQ to be effective and to succeed in his career. It is EQ that will make him effective as a manager and as a leader.

There are many people with brilliant minds and excellent technical skills who were promoted to leadership positions and failed. They ended up being moved to staff positions or even moved out because they had no people skills. There are also people with solid--but not necessarily extraordinary intellectual abilities and technical skills--who were promoted to leadership positions and succeeded.

The cases of Mario and Marissa (not their real names) illustrate this phenomena.

Mario describes himself as having an above average IQ, although IQ tests given by professional testing agencies showed that he has superior IQ. His grades in the elementary and high school at the Ateneo were above average; while his grades in college at the University of the Philippines were only average. He was tall and lanky and because of his build, his peers made fun of him and called him *"tipaklong."* He felt so self-conscious of his physical appearance that he withdrew from playing with his peers and became a loner.

Leadership potential

At the UP Diliman where he enrolled in AB Political Science, he became a student leader. He joined the UP Student Catholic Action (UPSCA). The late Fr. John P. Delaney, a Jesuit priest and UP Catholic chaplain at that time, who remembered him as one of his catechists in Ateneo High School, appointed him to head the Catechetical Instruction League of the UPSCA.

From then on, Mario's leadership potentials were drawn out and he bloomed in the position. Many of his fellow students listened to him with great admiration. He had the gift of influencing and persuading his peers, and negotiating with the university administration to give recognition to student organizations that he either organized, such as the Plebeians and the UP Liberal Arts Student Council, or revived, such as the UP Foreign Service Corps which had been inactive. Some faculty members would even seek his opinions and listen to him. He won student elections including the position of representative of the College of Liberal Arts to the UP Student Council.

After graduation, he was hired by a multinational pharmaceutical company as a medical representative. From this position, he climbed up the corporate ladder to vice president for marketing and later, business development director. In whatever position he occupied, he always had a way of winning and influencing people. He had no formal training in interpersonal relations skills, nor in coaching and counseling, but he had the knack of seeing the potentials in his direct reports and devel-

EMOTIONAL/p. B11

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BREAKFAST CHAT

The right people are needed to win sales race

By Ricky B. Garcia

THE PEOPLE at Work segment in Studio 23's Breakfast yesterday featured Mr. Jess Hofileña, EVP and chief marketing officer of the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company. He gave advice to individuals and companies who want to succeed in sales and marketing. Here's the gist of the interview.

PaW: In this age of rapidly advancing technology, sales and marketing professionals need reliable methods to be effective in selling and marketing products and services that are perceived as sophisticated and complex. In this situation, how can a company differentiate itself from competition?

Hofileña: Philamlife is a 55-year-old life insurance organization that, over the years, has earned a reputation for financial strength and stability. In our experience, our brand equity is our first key differentiator against competition. Philamlife is known throughout the broadest segments of the market and we make sure that our positive image remains, particularly because we are engaged in a relatively intangible product--life insurance and financial services.

Another key differentiator is our distribution system. We operate the largest agency sales force in the country. While most of our competitors also sell their products through agents, I believe we have nevertheless established some important differences in terms of our nationwide network of sales offices, our agency compensation scheme and overall a working culture that just can't be duplicated by others.

A third key distinction is product development. Years ago, we determined that product differentiation would be one of our company's driving forces and so we went out to conceptualize and introduce the widest portfolio of insurance savings and investment products in the industry. This commitment also enabled us to gain deeper insights into the needs of our customers as well as prospective clients. Hand-in-hand with product development is market segmentation. So we can cater more specifically to the nuances and different priorities of the different customer groups we serve.

PaW: What are the steps to successful selling to get ahead of your competitors?

Hofileña: Selling is a process. Successful selling therefore requires that all steps in the sales process be done properly and successfully. To illustrate, some sales organizations think that selling success is equated only with the actual number of sales that were made in a given period. That is, of course, an important aspect of the sales process. But there are other equally vital factors.

The sales process begins, for example, with prospecting or the salesman's ability to identify potential customers. Prospecting can either make or unmake a sales person. We are mindful of this. Running a nationwide sales organization that caters to the broadest market is never easy, and our reality is that our agents come to us with varying degrees of capability. The most productive

HOFILENA

are obviously the ones who have mastered their craft in all areas. What about the least? Oftentimes it is a question of a deficiency in one or more areas of the sales process. So constant tooling and retooling are done via training and continuing education programs. Moreover, we encourage and support our agents as well as leaders in developing market opportunities whether through lead generation activities or marketing activities in particular customer segments. Equally vital is being able to monitor sales activities in the field.

PaW: So, how do you attract clients in difficult selling markets?

Hofileña: First we have to offer them products that are suitable to their needs, priorities and lifestyles It makes them realize that we have a relevant understanding of their concerns. Second, we train our agents on how to identify important milestones or life stages of their prospective clients so they can present appropriate needs-based solutions. Third, we develop marketing communication materials or conduct market-specific activities to promote our company and our services.

THE RIGHT/p. B11

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WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 21, 2002

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LIFESTYLE

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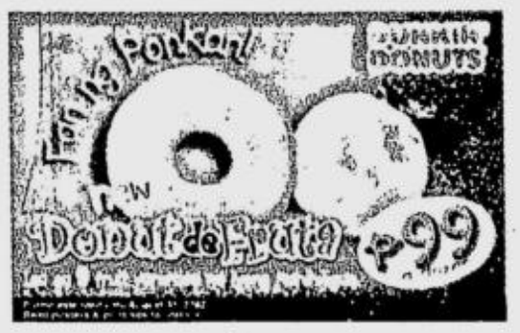

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ATENEO

Find out what makes the Blue Eagle fly high in this bluest of issues surveying the sights and sounds of the "Republic of Katipunan"

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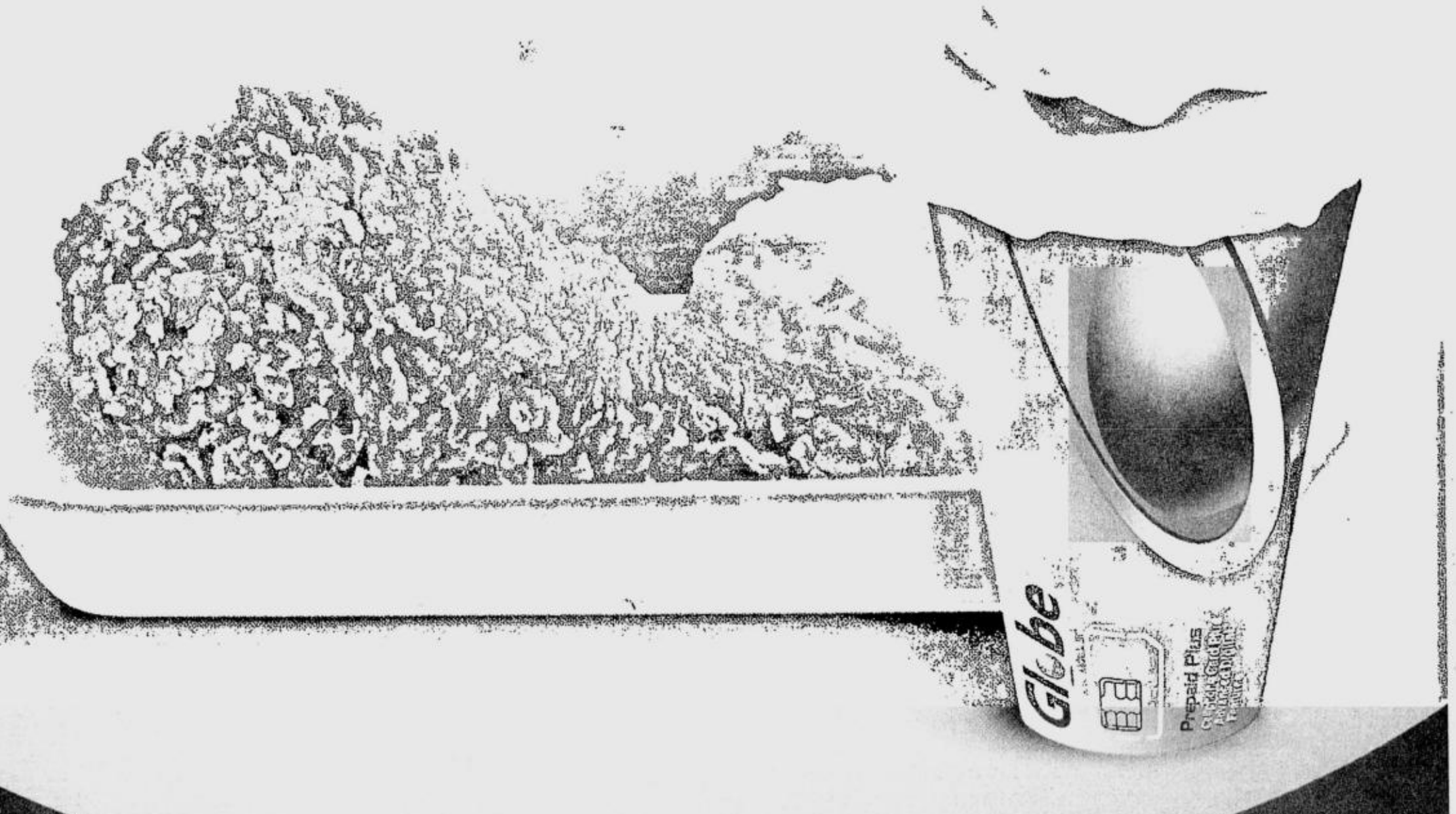

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1571, Series of 2002

How to tell if an eagle is true-blue

By Lisa S. Marfori Sobreviñas
2bU! Correspondent,
Ateneo de Manila University

WHAT makes an Atenean an Atenean? 2bU! asked and got the following replies.

You believe! Hehehe.—**Eleanor, 18**

Most of your allowance goes to photocopying reading materials. The ID scanners in the library don't work. The "discussion area" in the lib isn't for discussion. Registration starts at 4 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m. Online registration still means "in line" registration. You're always questioning the purpose of man. Your Philosophy and Theology classes are making your QPI (quality point index) lower. Never entering Adsa is a good thing.—**Trina, 19**

You give your basketball team a party not for the current season's championship (which it lost to La Salle), but for the next season. When you have to endure long lines, the hot sun and more long lines during registration week.—**Sic Narf, 19**

You can speak eloquently and think critically.—**Philomajor 2004**

You get to watch TV for 2-3 hours a week because of too much reading and studying.—**Ira Marasigan, 17**

When Colayco, Gonzaga, Berchmans and Kostka are more than just priests to you.—**Lissa,18**

You endlessly (and unconsciously) talk about things that happened in high school when you get together with your high school classmates even 20 years later.—**JP, 20**

Regardless of whether you're a basketball fan or not, you feel proud when the Blue Eagles win and disappointed when they don't.—**Bia Fernandez, 17**

You call people you don't know "pal"; and when you give and do not count the cost, fight and do not heed the wounds, toil and do not seek rest, and labor and ask not for reward.—**Roketo Punch" aka Jan Martinez, age unknown**

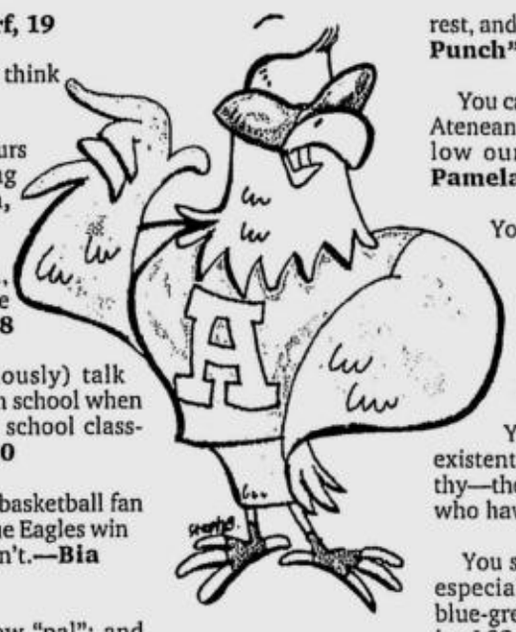


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

You can be *elitista* and *bakya* at the same time. Ateneans have a certain social status but we allow ourselves to be *jologs* occasionally.—**Pamela Estrella, 18**

You strive for Magis.—**Don, 20**

You get territorial over a monobloc bench. Going to the library doesn't mean research time, but Internet time. You pronounce foyer as it's spelled (foh-yer).—**Goddesstrish, 18**

You hang out in Cubao and gratify your existential needs if you have developed empathy—the initial phase of a life of service to those who have less.—**Eryang Q**

You say "I'm blue" when you're sad, but most especially when you're happy. You think the blue-green algae should just be blue. You're having LSS (last song syndrome) and it's the Ateneo alma mater song (Song for Mary) or the blue eagle spelling. Your ring tone is the alma mater or any Ateneo song. Your cell phone logo is "Ateneo" or an eagle, or the like.—**Jutes Templo, 19**

You put the cross and AMDG on top of papers, long tests and quizzes.—**Abi Souza, 20**

You are extremely gratified with at least four hours of sleep every night.—**Pao, 19**

Pag nagdedeny na sosyal siya.—**Lester Estrada**

When you know that "Edsa walk" is nowhere near the actual Edsa.—**Flaming Tazuki**

You call a tricycle "trike" and you tease the *elitista* about being, well, *elitista* while saying things like "No *kaya*!," "I'm gonna meet you *na lang sa* caf, okay?" and "Gods! It's so *mainit*. Why *naman kasi* Bel is so far away, *eh*?"—**Princess Malfoy, 19**

You want to win season 65 so badly.—**Domini Adriano**

You talk about academic matters with a weird not-*elitista*-but-not-*barok* accent that comes naturally. You feel conscious when you get lost going to a UP theater to watch a play and you have to ask for directions. You know who owns that bench, and that one, and that one. You know that Quads 1 and 2, Shangri-La, and Manuela aren't just malls.—**Maui, 18**

You think other students went to other colleges because they didn't get into Ateneo; about half your jokes have something about La Salle in the punchline; after only the first sem you feel like you've earned a bachelor's degree in procrastination; your flip-top pack of Marlboro lights actually contains *tingi* Winston lights.—**Javi Medina, 20**

You leave the campus and you don't notice you're still wearing your Ateneo ID with its matching holder.—**Ding, 20**

You know what Gesu means. "Basic" makes you cringe every time you hear it. You spend a small fortune on the photocopier everyday. You hate the "We still Believe" slogan as much as the La Sallites do. You think Manang's should get a spot in the school cafeteria. Venus evokes not-so-pretty images. You see empty space, but you can't find a place to park your car.—**Howie T., 20**

You know that Magis is not the brand of an instant noodle.—**Isa Silva**

You don't look for Pong or Kiko in the Batibot tree and you can attest to the fact that there's a dog house that accommodates many people.—**Jem Munji, 19**

You leave your bag (to reserve) a table and stand at the end of a line even if other people, who already got their orders, are looking for a table.—**Manangs, 20**

You see blue and no other color everywhere.—**G, 20**

You use the words *chong*, *pare*, dude and man in one sentence.—**B-Trip, 20**

You'd do anything to get a ticket to an Ateneo-La Salle game.—**Izzy Laluna, 19**

In conversations where you try to be (or sound) profound, you insert the words "*meron*" and "*pagmemeron*" every so often.—**Peachy A. Paderna, 18**

You know it's "Padre," not Father Ferriols, and when you've seen the sun set and rise while working on a project.—**Adi Co, 18**

You begin to ponder the meaning of life and question your existence at the young age of 20. Despite your efforts to simply breeze through your philosophy and theology classes, you find that you've actually absorbed what you've been taught.—**Ceia Ylagan**

You pronounce *parang* as "prauhng" and speak English with ditzy confidence, or find it *diyahe* to mention what school you're from out in the "real world."—**Ronan, 20**

You understand what abbreviations like Bel and SEC mean. You believe there is a ghost in the communication department and a dead janitor's spirit haunts Pipac. You can stay awake for more than 24 hours to finish a project due the following day.—**Annie Rose, 20**

You discuss the theology of marriage and existential philosophy and your friends give you a blank stare.—**Charisse Villaluz**

You say your course is AB Communication, not MassCom or Comm Arts, and you get irritated when people insist they're the same.—**Diane, 18**

You're spoonfed and apathetic at the same time.—**Kapi**

You know what "*halikinu*" means (sort of). You also know the true meaning of "lottery," and cringe upon hearing it. That the calf is not just an animal, the Quad is more than just a mall, how beautiful the Bellarmine field is when it's lit up. Your registration takes more than one day. Your six- or nine-hour break seems long only at the beginning of the semester.—**Kaia, 20**

You have an umbrella and a fan in your bag, you call your subjects by their catalog names (FIL14, MA 11, ENG 12, etc.), you can wear whatever you grabbed from your closet, you wear slippers to school.—**Rica, 18**

You eat at Manang's or Food for Thought for lunch. You get your bags checked before leaving the library (*parang sa* mall). You see celebrities like Janice de Belen, Antoinette Taus, Marco Lobregat, Dingdong Dantes, RR Herrera. *Nahulugan ka na ng higad sa* Quad. Registration takes one day and you curse the Reg Com for the inefficiencies. Tricycles are your means of transportation. Your favorite hangouts are The Strip, Tapa King, Kamirori, Ken Afford, Pizza Hut, Brother's Burgers, Good Burger/ Tiarong's, Subway/Pita Planet. Guards ask you to pin your ID (whether in the corridors or library). You run out

HOW/ p.C5

Me and My Nokia

confessions of a certified mobile user

Weekend Warrior trusts his NOKIA 3310

A no frills phone for a no frills guy. For 26-year old Paulo Tan, a Regional Sales Manager for one of the country's top multinationals, substance over style is a maxim he constantly tries to live by. His choice of phone may be an understatement, but also an excellent example of what he knows works best for him personally and professionally.

Paulo's job requires him to be out on the field almost everyday. His line of work entails him to accompany sales supervisors and their salesmen, study consumer behavior, establish strong business relationships with trade partners and make management decisions to grow the business. In a nutshell, he ensures that the products he handles are available and visible to the right consumers, at the right outlets, at the right price, all the time. This frequent out-of-the-office sales calls have taken him from the smallest sari-sari stores, public markets and supermarkets both in Metro Manila and the provinces. "In my job, I meet a lot of different people, and it's important that I am able to relate to them on a personal level," said Paulo. "In my experience, the Nokia 3310 is the same phone used by most of the people I come in contact with ... that alone is a conversation piece and a plus point in my dealings with them."

Asked what features of the Nokia 3310 he liked best, Paulo said that compared to his previous phones, this was by far the easiest for text messaging. "This is very practical for me considering that I usually send a lot of instructions through text. Because of the multiple text sending feature, I don't have to text my sales group one at a time. It's convenient."

"I'm also able to send longer messages, and the occasional picture message if I want to be cute and greet a friend a happy birthday," Paulo said with a grin. Indeed, the Nokia 3310 boasts of a multiple SMS sending feature, as users can write or receive SMS messages of up to 460 characters.

On the occasions that he finds himself with some free time, Paulo sometimes taps into any of the four games available on the Nokia 3310: Snake II, Pairs II, Space Impact and Bantumi. With a laugh, Paulo said that "I try my best to get the highest score in Snake II." All for good measure, of course.

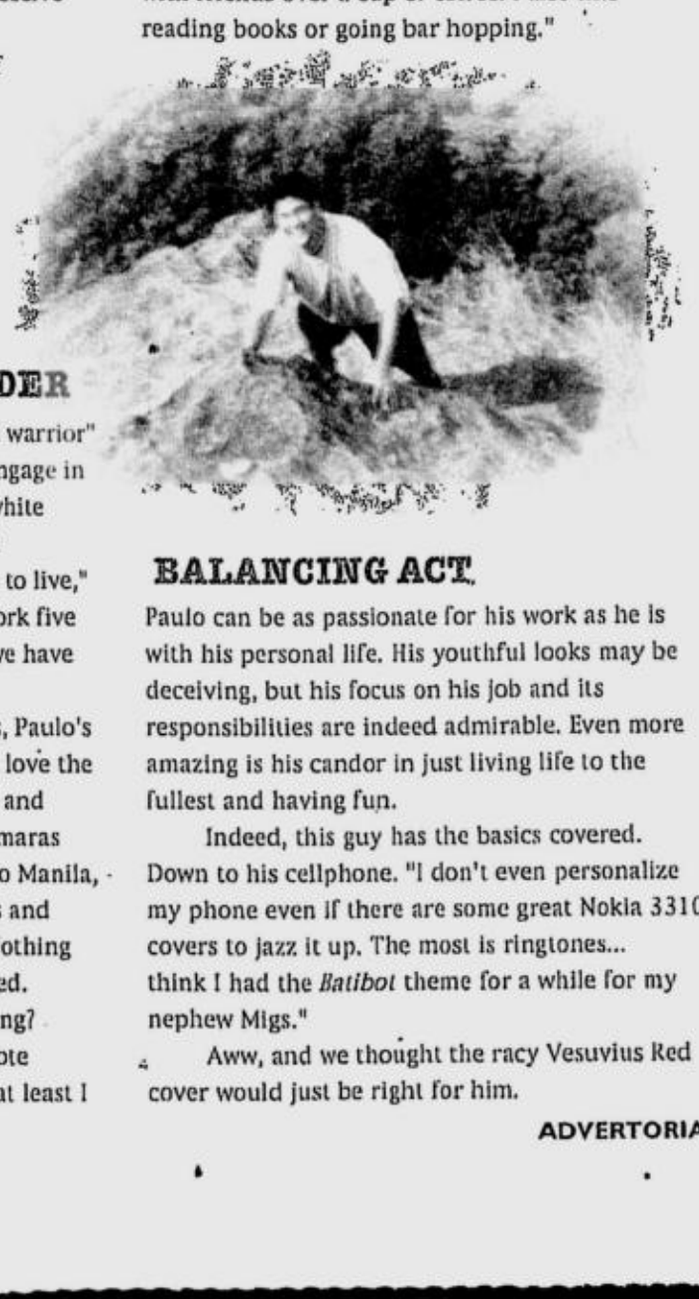
WORK HARD, PLAY HARDER

Paulo describes himself as a "weekend warrior" because he usually likes to skip town and engage in a number of activities: from snorkeling to white water rafting, from spelunking to mountain climbing. "Some people live to work. I work to live," said Paulo. "I really believe that since we work five or six days a week, in the one or two days we have off, we should go out and have fun."

Indeed, even with his responsibilities, Paulo's youth and verve for life is indisputable. "I love the beaches in Visayas: Bantayan, Malapascua and Olango in Cebu; Panglao in Bohol and Guimaras and Boracay in Panay. Before going back to Manila, I was assigned in the Visayas for 8 months and during weekends, I'd go island hopping. Nothing compares to the Visayas beaches," he added.

So is the Nokia 3310 good for traveling? "Yeah, I bring it along. Usually in the remote provinces I visit, when there is no signal, at least I have an alarm clock to remind me if it's time to start my workday," said Paulo. "The stopwatch is handy too, if I need to check or manage my speed when my busy schedule allows me to do the occasional jog in the morning."

When unable to go out of town, Paulo spends his down time having coffee and leisurely talks with his friends. "I really enjoy having quiet talks with friends over a cup of coffee. I also like reading books or going bar hopping."



BALANCING ACT

Paulo can be as passionate for his work as he is with his personal life. His youthful looks may be deceiving, but his focus on his job and its responsibilities are indeed admirable. Even more amazing is his candor in just living life to the fullest and having fun.

Indeed, this guy has the basics covered. Down to his cellphone. "I don't even personalize my phone even if there are some great Nokia 3310 covers to jazz it up. The most is ringtones... think I had the *Batibot* theme for a while for my nephew Migs."

Aww, and we thought the racy Vesuvius Red cover would just be right for him.

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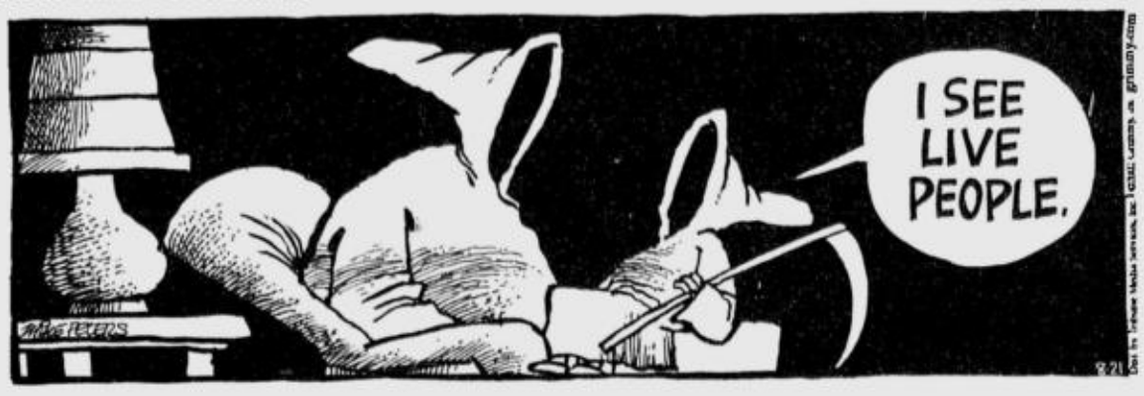


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wilt Chamberlain, Kenny Rogers, Count Basie

Happy Birthday: This is the year to start anew and make your dreams come true. Let go of the people and things that have been holding you back. The focus should not only be on what you do with your life, but also what you do with yourself. It is a time to get back into shape and to work at becoming the best you can be. Your numbers are 8, 12, 15, 22, 28, 34

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll find yourself involved in everyone else's business, finding solutions to problems and, in general, raising your popularity. You should be proud of your accomplishments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may want to think things through before you make a hasty decision. If things aren't going too well you must consider the real reasons. You know in your heart that changes are inevitable.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You are ready to take the plunge and forge into unknown waters. You will have the ingenuity to deal with whatever obstacles come your way.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You must be careful not to push yourself too hard today. A little rest is in order if you want to stay healthy and strong. You can get help if you ask for it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Love and romance will be on your mind. Make the effort to please that special person in your life or, if you are single, sign up to do something you'll enjoy. Your colorful personality will be inviting.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have what it takes to promote yourself, your ideas and your future. Look around and you'll see opportunities everywhere. Let your creative imagination lead the way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can accomplish whatever you set your mind to today. Look at the possibilities of making some alterations that will enhance your appearance. You will attract all sorts of interesting new contacts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't count on getting any sympathy from those you live with. Whatever you do, don't ask for assistance. The best way to get anything done is to go it alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone you least expect will have information that will help you. Communication will be the most vital means of getting what you need and want. Contact with people from different backgrounds.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be in a very productive mood today. Don't let anyone slow you down. Focus on your goals and don't be afraid to take a chance on making a career move.

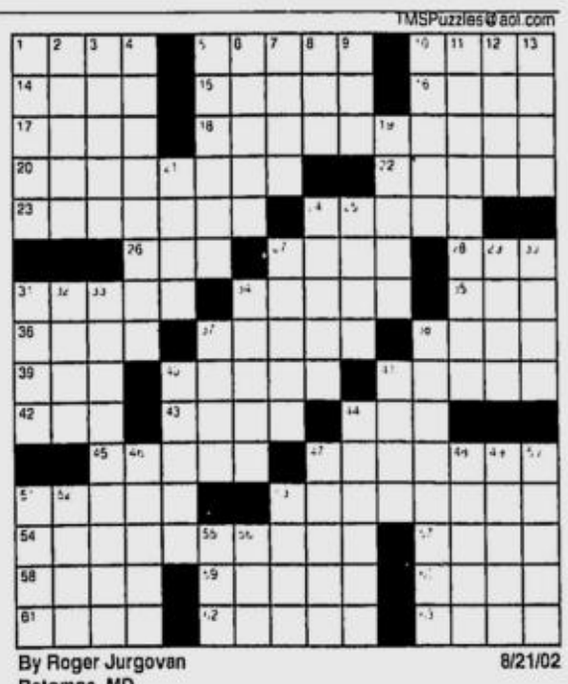
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be in a sensitive mood today. Put your heart and soul into pleasurable pursuits, leaving any heavy talks or problem solving until a later date. Join groups that are involved in projects you can relate to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be afraid to invest a little in a sure thing. You will be able to make profitable additions to your home, or you may even come into a little cash that you don't have to work for.

Birthday Baby: Charming is the best word to describe you. You will be well-liked because of your ability to not only entertain and come up with good ideas, but also because you are responsible.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

8/21/02

ACROSS
1 Squabble
5 Waned
10 Close to closed
14 Tramp
15 Nurse Barton
16 Story
17 Grad
18 Best Actor, "On Golden Pond"
20 Styles
22 Ryan or Tatum
23 Gave medical aid to
24 Concise
26 Actor Beatty
27 Howard of "Annie Get Your Gun"
28 Scrap of food
31 Shies
34 Jokers
35 Classic beginning?
36 Forestry tools
37 See 27D
38 Yemen capital
39 Fabrication
40 View
41 Quench
42 Doctrine
43 Quarry
44 Vim
45 Mimicry
47 Mrs. FDR
51 Item with strings attached?
53 Surmounted
54 Best Actor, "Separate Tables"
57 Terrible czar?
58 Ireland
59 Looks _ everything
60 Hawaiian goose
61 Dispatched
62 Celebration
63 Medical suffix

DOWN
1 Stream of light
2 _ bear
3 Invective
4 Best Actor, "Philadelphia"
5 Repeated
6 Mix together
7 Prohibits
8 Make a blunder
9 Actress Doris
10 Do penance
11 Best Actress, "Coming Home"
12 "Paper Lion" star Alan
13 Tangible
19 Thwarts
21 Residents of: suff.
24 Tours topper
25 Cincinnati nine
27 With 37A, Best Actress, "Misery"
29 Stink
30 Inflection
31 Island east of Java
32 WWII alliance
33 Best Actor, "Cat Ballou"
34 Guarded
37 Whirring sound
38 Best Actor, "Scent of a Woman"
40 While away
41 Clairvoyant
44 More than sufficient
46 Promontory
47 Occurrence
48 Church areas
49 Man from Muscat
50 Coty and Descartes
51 Summer coolers
52 Peel
53 Ended
55 Snooze
56 One of the Gershwins

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	C	M	E	■	G	O	L	A	N	■	C	L	A	P
B	O	O	M	■	O	B	E	S	E	■	A	A	R	E
C	O	M	I	C	B	O	O	K	S	■	R	U	N	G
■	■	■	R	O	L	E	S	■	T	A	N	G	O	S
A	M	T	■	L	I	S	■	A	L	L	A	H	■	■
S	A	I	P	A	N	■	D	R	I	L	L	I	N	G
P	I	C	A	S	■	P	A	C	K	S	■	N	O	L
E	L	K	S	■	P	U	R	E	E	■	O	G	L	E
N	I	L	■	E	R	R	E	D	■	S	A	G	A	N
S	N	E	E	R	E	R	S	■	S	T	R	A	N	D
■	■	D	R	O	S	S	■	S	A	O	■	S	S	A
B	Y	P	A	S	S	■	A	U	T	R	Y	■	■	■
A	M	I	S	■	M	E	R	R	Y	M	A	K	E	R
L	I	N	E	■	E	N	T	E	R	■	K	I	W	I
I	R	K	S	■	N	E	A	R	S	■	S	T	E	P

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8/21/02

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

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Where eagles dine

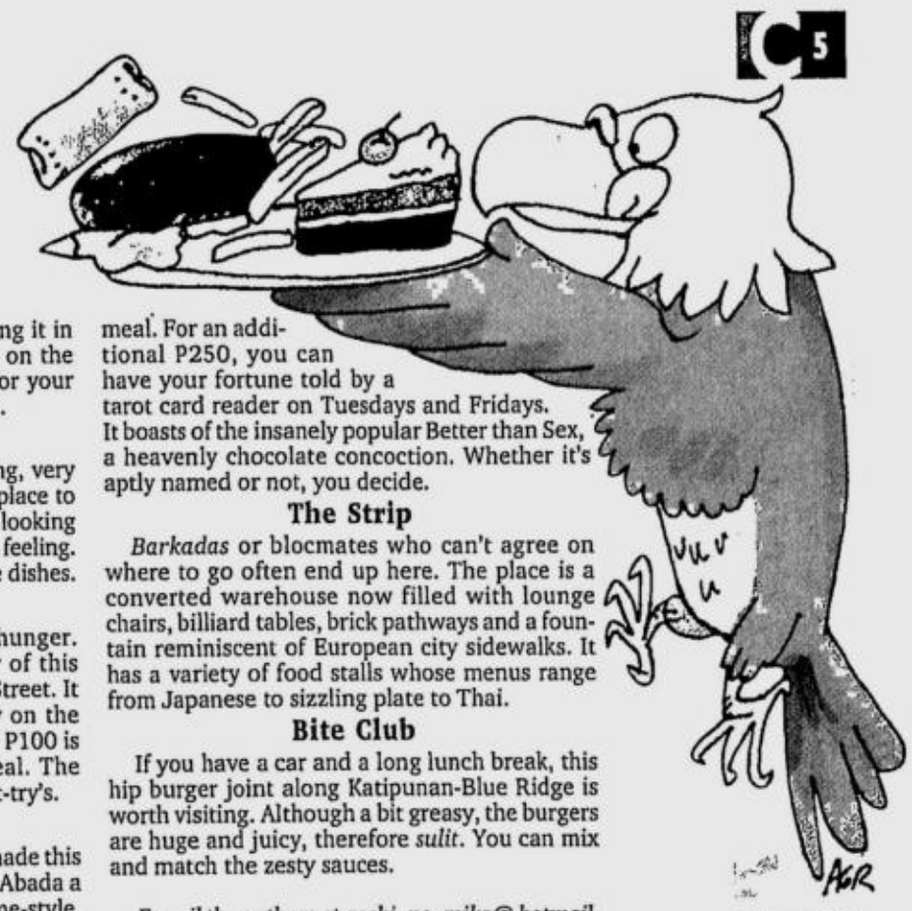

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Ma. Angela V. Ignacio and Lisa S. Marfori Sobreviñas
2bU! Correspondents

TIRED of greasy fastfood fare? If you're in the Ateneo de Manila University campus, you might want to try these places for a quick snack.

Cafeteria

"Ang tambayan ng mga walang tambayan." At the first floor of the Gonzaga Building, it has more than 10 food stalls by different concessionaires. It can be a hassle crossing to the other end to buy rice from the Ateneo Multi-Purpose Cooperative (AMPC), but the *busog-sarap* feeling you get after a full meal is worth it.

Manang's

Pork *inihaw* and *liempo*. Enough said. You don't have to spend much and you get your money's worth in the small *carinderia*.

As early as 10 a.m., people line up for the pork chops and other *inihaw* items.

The ISO Canteen

This is the place to go if you crave Korean food and sizzling meals. Few students go to the ISO canteen, which is a few buildings away from Xavier Hall, because of its distance. So, when you do go there, you're sure to always find a spot to enjoy your meal.

The Bellarmine Cafeteria

The *caldereta* is definitely worth a try but it is most famous for the *turon*, the sweets and bottled water to keep students awake during class.

Food for Thought

Eating here is a choose-your-own-*sahog* adventure. Located at Quad 2 (between Colayco Hall and the Rizal Library), it offers several types of bread, meat fillings and garnishing that you can combine any way you want. You need only about P50 for a sandwich and Zesto or iced tea. Try also the salad, pasta and rice meal of the day.

CeFam Canteen

While far from most buildings in school (it's near the Loyola House of Studies), the food is really good. Ate Anisia and her crew have been preparing food and catering for the Center for Family Ministries and some Jesuits. Try the home-cooked meals like the fish *escabeche*, beef steak and vegetable dishes.

Cervini Cafeteria

Located beside the Cervini and Eliazo Residence Halls, it's open to everyone, selling home-cooked—sometimes sizzling—meals.

Probably the best thing it offers is the romantic, serene view of Marikina Valley.

Blue Cow

Right beside the Ateneo High School, it features a different menu every day, from pasta to Mongolian meals. Patrons swear by their desserts, especially the apple pie.

Food sales at Quad 2

Some organizations sponsor food sales featuring a variety of meals every week. Regulars at Quad 2 (aside from Food for Thought) are the *taho* and dirty ice cream that Ateneans can't seem to get enough of.

Aside from fastfood joints, Katipunan Avenue has of a wide range of restaurants and cafés where students can hang out and spend breaks. These include:

Martha's Kitchen

The charming country-style diner makes customers feel at home. Its two branches along Katipunan offer yummy rice and pasta dishes, with Beef Stroganoff among the bestsellers. A filling meal costs a little over P100 but, all things considered, the place is still student-friendly.

The Barn

Owned by Ronnie and Mariz Ricketts and partners, The Barn offers pricey but delectable dishes served in large portions. The place looks like a log cabin, giving one a feeling of roughing it in the mountains in style. You can doodle on the Manila paper placemats while waiting for your food with the crayons the place provides.

Boston Tea House

Located on the 5/F of the FBR building, very few people know about it but this is the place to go to if you have money to spare and are looking for coziness without that sardines-in-a-can feeling. It serves mostly burgers and Friday's-type dishes.

Eyrie

They say the color orange attracts hunger. Maybe this is why orange is the color of this small, two-story diner on F. de la Rosa Street. It serves home-style dishes that are easy on the wallet but definitely heavy on the belly; P100 is more than enough for a satisfying meal. The chicken *sisig* and Eyrie iced tea are must-try's.

Gayuma

Both poets and non-artsy types have made this cozy, dimly lit house-turned-resto on E. Abada a favorite haunt. The menu is mostly home-style, but you'll need P150 to P200 for a complete meal. For an additional P250, you can have your fortune told by a tarot card reader on Tuesdays and Fridays. It boasts of the insanely popular Better than Sex, a heavenly chocolate concoction. Whether it's aptly named or not, you decide.

The Strip

Barkadas or blocmates who can't agree on where to go often end up here. The place is a converted warehouse now filled with lounge chairs, billiard tables, brick pathways and a fountain reminiscent of European city sidewalks. It has a variety of food stalls whose menus range from Japanese to sizzling plate to Thai.

Bite Club

If you have a car and a long lunch break, this hip burger joint along Katipunan-Blue Ridge is worth visiting. Although a bit greasy, the burgers are huge and juicy, therefore *sulit*. You can mix and match the zesty sauces.

E-mail the authors at aoshi_no_miko@hotmail.com (Angela) and sobre@compass.com.ph (Lisa)

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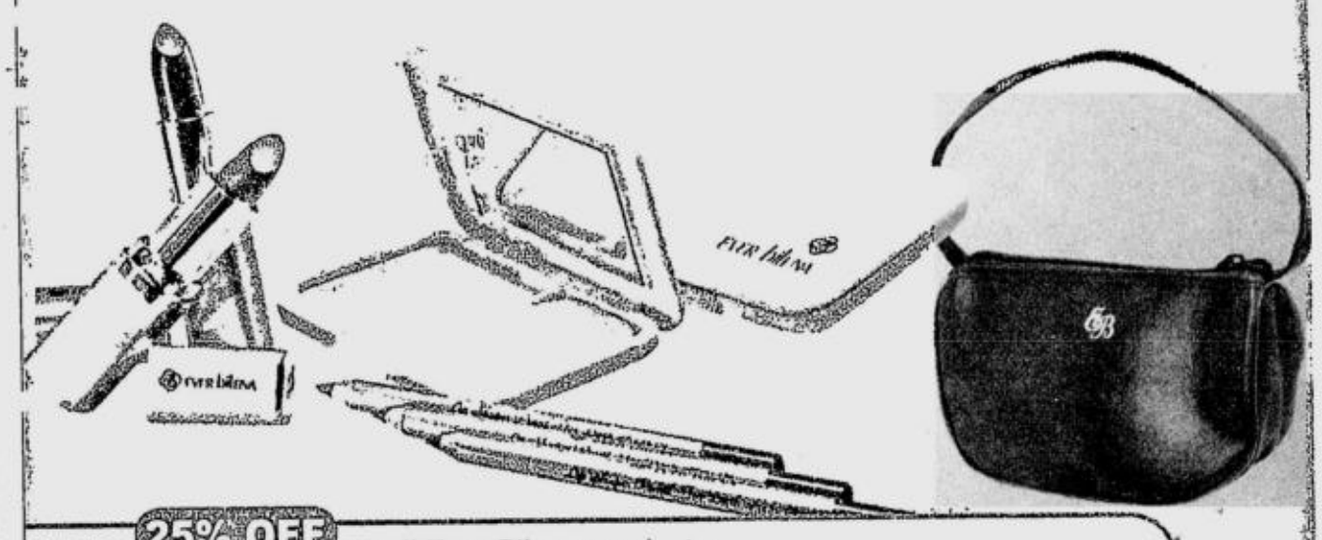

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How to tell if

From page C2

of tickets for AdMU-DLSU games due to hoarding of alumni.—**Noelle Santos, 19**

You've eaten chicken strips and mashed potatoes literally swimming in gravy at the caf!—**Jessica Lim, 20**

You are allergic to colors other than blue (especially green). You spend most of your free time in the lib. You have mastered the art of taking the tricycle. You tell the corniest jokes (most of the dumbest jokes I've ever heard came from Ateneans). You bash DLSU (De la Salle University).—**Thinapay, 20**

You mumble excerpts of Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics in your sleep (a side effect of Philo 104). You get paper cuts from class handouts stacked as high as your knee. The class handouts cut your monthly allowance in half at the start of each month.—**Yvanna, 19**

You ponder the questions formed in your head by your Philo classes, especially the concept of "Meron" after you graduate. You go to mass at Camp Big Falcon (Church of the Gesu). *Inihaw na* pork chop from Manang's becomes your staple for breakfast. Classes in the Communications Department send shivers down your spine. You know the blue eagle carved on the Blue Eagle Gym is not an eagle at all.—**Nikko, 19**

You've been bitten by a *higad* at least once. You know that the best place for "people-watching" is under the *batibot* tree. You don't have classes on July 31 and only you know why. Your hell week seems to be longer than a week. You walk all the way to the Loyola Gym for a PE class in the rain.—**Bebe Sio**

For at least once in your life, you have been disturbed by God-questions, or questions about your being/*pagmemeron*.—**Ten10, 22**

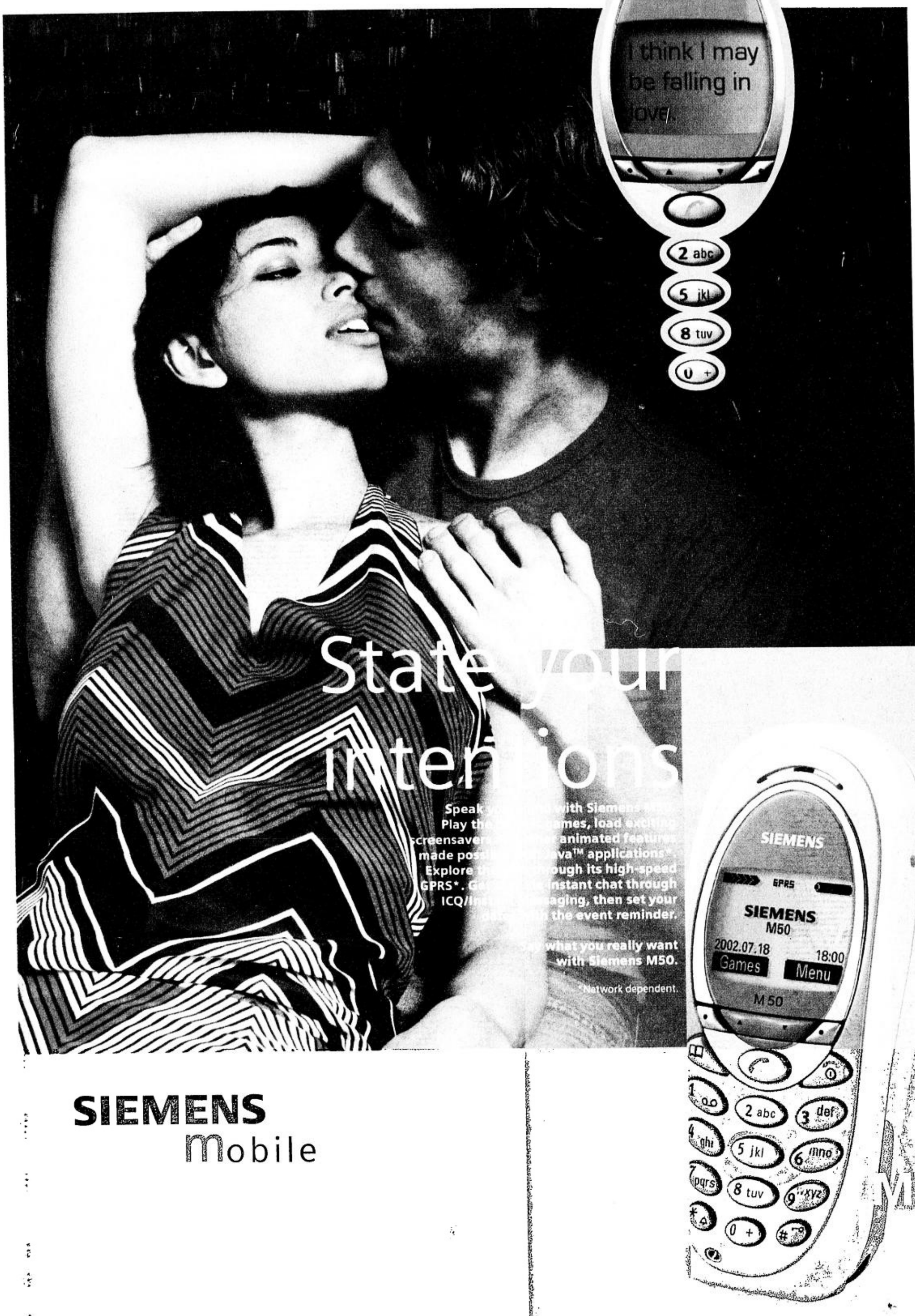
You've experienced or at least heard of Days with the Lord.—**Let S., 20**

You can finish a paper in an hour and still get a decent grade. You absolutely have to be at an Ateneo-La Salle game. You take frequent trips to UP after a 7:30 p.m. class to buy *isaw*. You fall in line for an hour to use the computers at the library for free Internet access. You have to volunteer for the Freshman Orientation Seminar (OrSem). You have to eat at Manang's at least once a month. You sleep in the library during your three-hour breaks.—**Christian Ylagan, 18**

Your car's shock absorbers are so badly beaten-up because of the unpaved parking spaces. You spend almost an hour looking for parking space. You go around carrying photocopied hand-outs. You know all the jokes about the other schools. You address the teachers as "ma'am/miss" or "sir," and not "prof/professor." You call Berchmans Hall "berch," Bellarmine Hall "bell," Xavier Hall "admin" and SEC "sec."—**Carol B, 20**

You enjoy stepping on the grass—the greener, the better.—**Aki, 20**

E-mail the author at lisastrip@hotmail.com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Exit
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Spruce Biorhythm
Brainiac
Do you have what it takes to be a Brainiac? This brain-teaser game will let you test your brain power and logical thinking skills.
Brainiac

The ultimate Ateneo survival guide

By Mariel Singson
2bU! correspondent,
Ateneo de Manila University

STUDYING in the Ateneo is definitely no stroll in the park. Passing the entrance test, no matter how great a feat this may seem to most people, does not secure a done deal for anybody. Getting into the Ateneo is easy. The tricky part is actually staying in it.

The mortality rate for students in the Ateneo is more or less five percent annually. The chief reason, obviously, is academics — those who do not make the quality point index (QPI) requirement are asked to withdraw. However, making the grade still doesn't ensure survival. You wouldn't want to crawl your way through college, would you?

To the Ateneo freshmen and the high school students out there planning to study in the Ateneo, here are some things you'll have to remember.

Essentials

There are some things an Atenean just can't live without. First, the school ID, which is the Atenean's passport to practically everything. As a security measure, the Ateneo issues two IDs for each student every school year. One is for wearing; the other is to be used for transactions. You can't get very far without your ID, as the guards strategically posted throughout the campus make a thorough check on students' IDs. A fine is imposed when a student is caught without and ID, as well as for lost and damaged IDs.

Second to the ID is a pair of comfy shoes. Walking is a part of an Atenean's daily life, car or no car, so comfortable footwear is a must.

Third on the list are the weather essentials — the jacket, the umbrella and the fan. The weather is always unpredictable, and in Ateneo, there are only two types: very cold and scorching hot. It is always handy to have these things to combat the weather.

Fourth, an Atenean always has a stack of 3x5 index cards and 1x1 ID pictures on hand, especially at the start of each semester, when most teachers require them.

Last, you should always have loose change on hand. Chances are, in your life as an Atenean, you'll be spending more of your allowance on photocopying than on food. The rates for photocopying on campus range from 30 cents to one peso, depending on the quality of photocopying. Loose change also comes in useful when you're too tired to walk and have to take a tricycle.

Knowing the campus

The Ateneo has a fairly big campus, and the facilities of the college department occupies a wide expanse of buildings, most of which look similar. It is advisable for an Atenean to familiarize himself or herself with the surroundings to avoid getting lost or worse, blundering into the wrong room.

An Atenean should also be familiar with the benches around the campus. Not all benches are free for all, especially those lining the exterior of the cafeteria, the Science Education Complex and the Edsa walk. Be sure about this before taking a seat, lest you want to suffer the wrath of certain groups.

Also, for the UAAP fan, it is essential to know where tickets are sold—the University Athletics office, which is beside the table tennis area by the covered courts. Blue Eagle paraphernalia, such as shirts, mugs, pillows and pens, are available at the Eagles' corner at the Xavier Hall.

Computer services

Whether you need to cram a paper, do research or check your e-mail, there are computers accessible to students on campus. The library computer lab and the SEC open lab offer the free use of computers for a limited period of time per student. There are minimal fees for other services, like printing and scanning. The Department of Student Welfare Services also rents out computers for P10 an hour and P5 per page for printing. If you have your own computer, you can plug it in at the Rizal Study foyer, the Library typing rooms and the various electrical outlets found in the hallways of the campus.

Cars

Whether you have your own car or you have a driver, it is necessary to procure an Ateneo car pass and have your car undergo emission testing, or it won't get into the campus for very long. Also, know your parking spaces and the traffic rules. Violations cost P500 each, and three violations automatically incur a suspension.

EXPRESS ADVICE

w@p

Do your banking while on-the-go. Access **BPI Express Online from your WAP cellphone** and check your balance, pay bills, do emergency fund transfers and even request for a stop payment order.

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Maybelline dela Cruz & Miko Sotto

Have fun with today's hottest young stars! Take part in exciting games and autograph signings!

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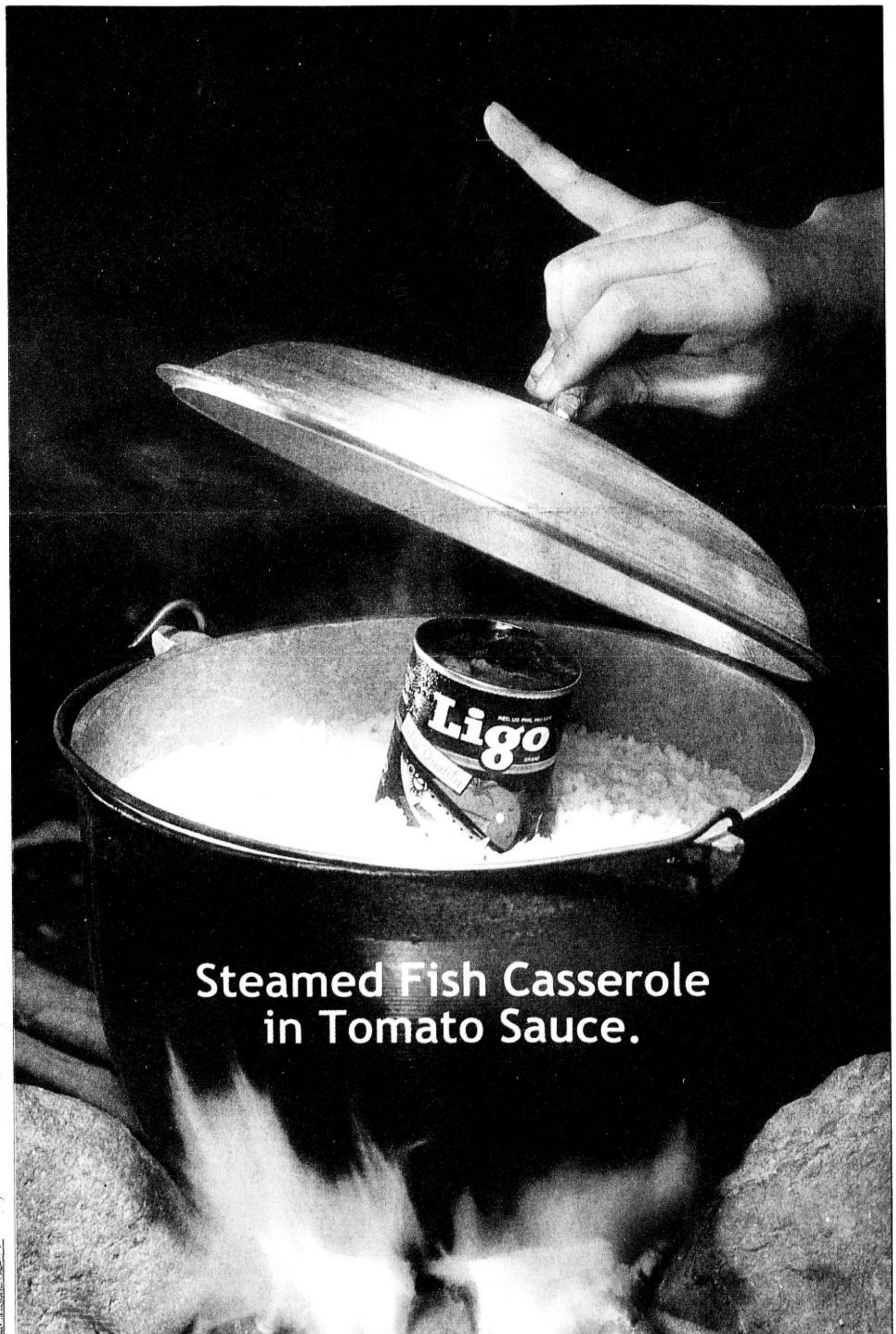
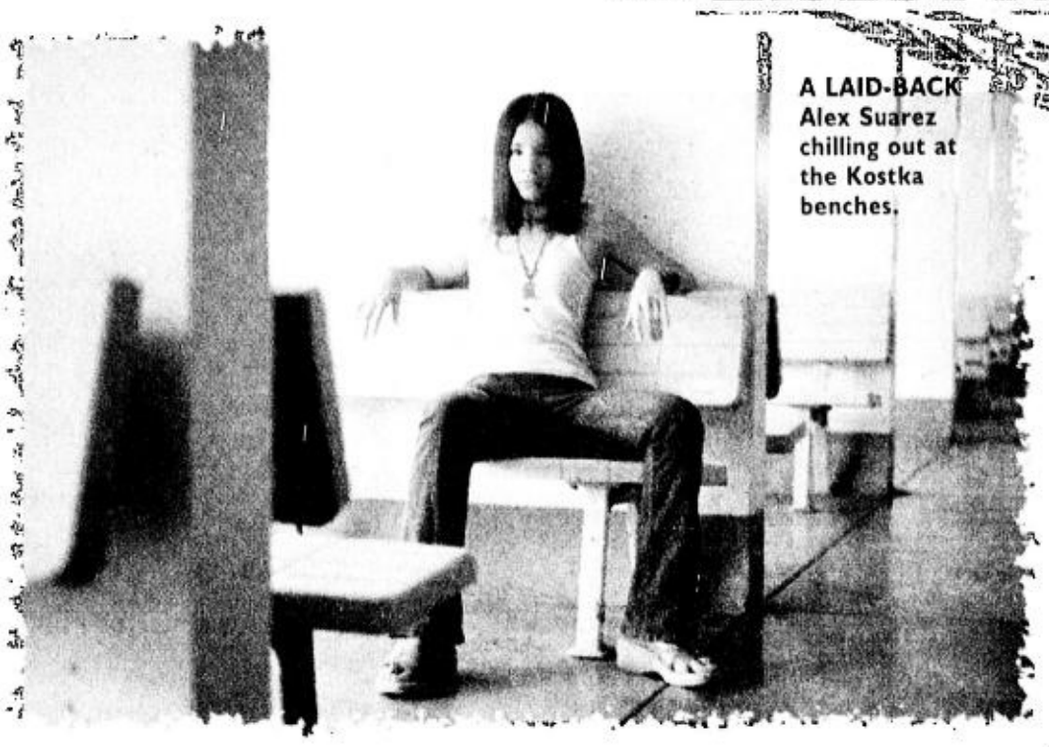


Pagdating sa kainan, iisa lang ang sosy sardines. Ligo. Sosy ang quality! Sa taba ng fish, sa super thick sauce at sa lasa -- sosy sa sarap!

Ligo
The Sosy Sardines

Let these university heartthrobs show you what Ateneo campus fashion is all about



A LAID-BACK Alex Suarez chilling out at the Kostka benches.

Campus faces and aces

By Angela Ignacio, Melissa Telan and Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondents
Photos by Mike Alquinto

LOOKS. Brains. Talents. Personality. Who says you can't have them all? Meet some of the students who best exemplify what a true-blue Atenean is: well-rounded, versatile and much, much more.

WORLD-CLASS debater Bobby Benedicto oozes sheer charisma.

ALEXANDRA ISABEL SUAREZ, 16

I-BS Management of Applied Chemistry

Over the summer, Alex spent 10 hours a day playing softball! Having had the chance to represent the Philippines in Japan (baseball) and Australia (softball), this gamine Woodrose alumna is also currently investing most of her time as the pitcher in the school's varsity team. Though this self-described "outgoing, rugged, down-to-earth and happy" girl can be a little crazy sometimes (she once went parasailing in Phuket), she hopes to get married and set up her own business in the future.

DOUG KRAMER, 18

I-AB Interdisciplinary Studies

With his towering height and eye-catching *mestizo* features, he's pretty hard to miss. Hailing from the Risen Lord Academy in Baguio, the 6'4" power forward of the Blue Eagles started playing basketball when he was 13. He says that it practically consumes all his time, but it's all part and parcel of the job if he wants to achieve his goal—to play in the PBA. He has signed a contract with Adidas, having done some ramp modeling for the sports brand last April. Oh yeah, and he's very much single. Bet a lot of girls are doing cartwheels over that.

MA. FRANCESCA CANIVEL, 18

II-BS Management Engineering

Chinie considers Jakarta her second home as she lived there for eight years; while there, she became the muse of the Philippine contingent in the 1998 SEA Games. During her high-school years at the International School of Manila, she received the Most Outstanding Dancer award and was initiated into the Cum Laude Society, which she considers as her greatest achievement. Believe it or not, the secretary of the sophomore council's department of external affairs once ate cow's brain for a science class!

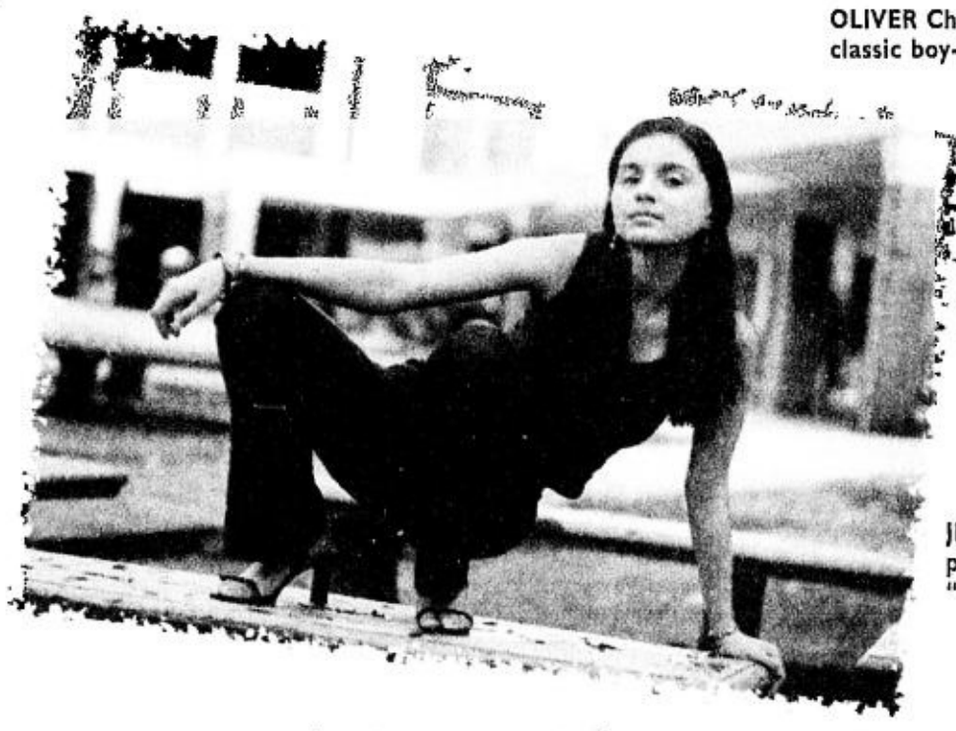
CHINIE Canivel in an enchanting far away look

PAULO LUGTU, 19

II-AB Interdisciplinary Studies

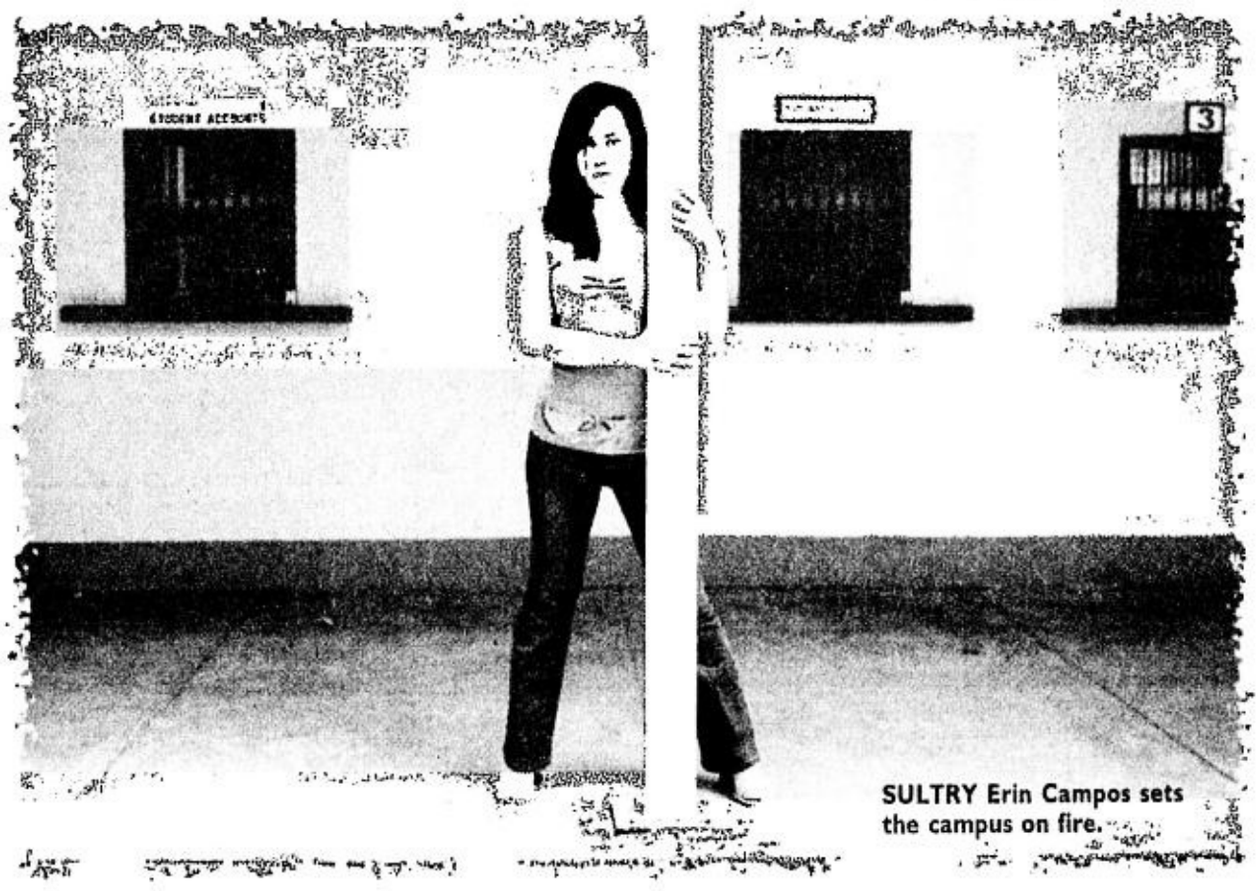
If you bump into him in school during breaks, you'll catch him sketching an evening gown or two—or four. "Go-getter" is how Paulo describes himself. Recently, he picked up a thing or two about designing when he became an intern for Visionaire Publications in New York, which to Paulo is "the world's most avant-garde fashion magazine." He has applied with the Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London and Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne in Paris to achieve his goal of becoming a "couturier for the world's most glamorous women."

THE GROUP strikes a pose.



OLIVER Chong, the classic boy-next-door.

JEN Kelly puts the "S" in sexy.



SULTRY Erin Campos sets the campus on fire.

DOUG Kramer's smoldering bad-boy stare

JENNIFER ANNE KELLY, 18

III-BS Management Engineering

Metrobank scholar, dean's lister, and officer of various organizations. With numerous achievements, Jen is definitely more than just eye candy. But what really sets this girl apart is her passion to help others, taking after her parents who are both social workers. Currently, she teaches biology and chemistry to underprivileged scholars at Sapang Palay, Bulacan, but in a few years' time, Jen aims to work for the United Nations where she can "head a project on international AIDS campaign or another to aid starving children."

BOBBY BENEDICTO, 20

III-AB Political Science

Hats off to this genius debater. Bobby has a growing multitude of awards under his belt, with the World ESL championship and Asian championship, to name a few. Ambitious and driven, he plans to get a master's degree in international relations and work in diplomacy, maybe even teach in school. In 10 years, he sees himself as the secretary general for the United Nations, and given his debating prowess and impressive diplomatic abilities, he just might be. If so, then he'd be the first one with a pierced tongue.

ERIN CAMPOS, 21

IV-AB Management Economics

Erin took an exam at the prestigious Royal Academy of Dancing in London and passed, but she had to quit ballet because school was getting too hectic. These days, her weekends are spent teaching ballet to little kids at the Steps Dance Studio in Glorietta. An outstanding student at Poveda high school, she's currently the external vice-president of the Company of Ateneo Dancers. This determined and often outspoken health buff was once blonde for a week because she agreed to have her hair dyed for a hair show!

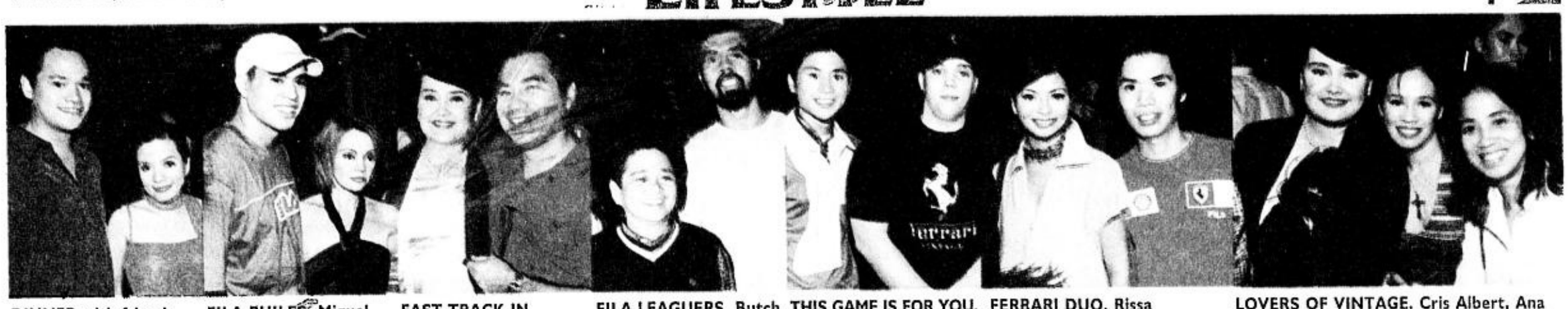
OLIVER RYAN CHONG, 21

IV-BS Management Information Systems

Though he may spend a lot of his time on the baseball field (as left fielder for the school's varsity team), Oliver still finds time to play video games, draw, and play the guitar. This Xavier alumnus is also active in school organizations like Celadon. He once posed as a cross-dresser for an organizational ad campaign—wearing a wig, a skirt and a spaghetti-strapped top. "*Nagmukha akong* drag queen!" Oliver laughs. He would like to work in a computer firm and travel all over the world.

(Thanks to Tiffany Limsico, Sam Refran, Mau Torres and Annie Yu for helping with the shoot.)

FUTURE couturier Paulo Lugtu hams it up at Edsa walk.



DINNER with friends Jeremy Domingo and Liesl Batucan

FILA-PHILES. Miguel Noble and Wanda Lonwallien

FAST TRACK IN STYLE. Cris Albert and Ralph Joseph

FILA LEAGUERS. Butch Albert and Marlou Aquino

THIS GAME IS FOR YOU. Globe guy Chase Tinio and Sebastian Wacker

FERRARI DUO. Rissa Samson with hubby Marzo fresh from Milan

LOVERS OF VINTAGE. Cris Albert, Ana Bitong and Gaita Fores at the Fila boutique in SM Megamall

The vantage of vintage

Tim Yap

MY LOVE affair with vintage started when I was in second grade. I was searching for costumes for a class play when all of a sudden, I found myself in my parents' walk-in closet going through stacks and stacks of rich velvet, outrageous prints and outlandish clothes. Right then and there, I realized I wasn't adopted—I guess it really runs in the blood.

The next few days, during school breaks, I found myself wearing Lanvin, Montagut, RM Manlapat (!) and other daddy dandies that I had treasure-hunted. From the buttons, the details and the prints—they just don't make them like they used to. At that time, I didn't even know it was called vintage—I just thought they were old clothes. (This fixation continued as I discovered the now ubiquitous "*ukay-ukays*" from Bambang to Baguio, flea markets from Pasay to Paris.)

Fast-forward to now. Fila launched its Ferrari vintage line last week at its Megamall boutique. Guests were transported to yesteryears as **Jay Herrera** changed the store's foyer into a 1920s dressing room, complete with flapper-dressed dancers and two-toned suited mannequins. A saxophone player set the mood further by playing jazz while stylophiles feasted on the overflowing champagne, so generously poured by sommelier **Ralph Joseph** of Ralph's fame. And what better partner for bubbly but vintage queen **Gaita Fores'** caviar spread?

Through it all, Fila-philes **Cris** and **Butch Albert**, chic in retro vintage styles—she in an equestrienne ensemble topped with a boa feather, he as a dapper Old-World gentleman—entertained their guests with much fervor. My ultimate favorite stage actress, classy and sexy **Ana Abad Santos-Bitong**, was busy making sure that the party was going smooth, just the way she planned it with director **Rem Zamora**, another Rep colleague. Later, models came out in Fila Ferrari-styled ensembles (by resident designer **Noni Diza**, no less) as they did the pout and pose with the guests, who arrived in vintage vogue.

Monique Albert wore an electric blue flapper dress while brother **Marty** came in vintage Armani. Shu Uemura's **Tina Tinio** looked stunning in her mom's Azabache jacket. Champagne flutes after, everyone was on a roll with laughter and excitement. A big bang after, the partyphiles all went straight and raided the Fila store, walking away with several bags of Ferrari vintage footwear collection. Mega's Seen by See columnist **Alfonso See** got three pairs for himself while **Monchot Ongsiako** got Fila sports shirts. The whole night, the booze overflowed while the cash registers rang—it was one fab night!

The evening ended with song, as everyone was in the mood to groove. Studio 23 VJ **JM Rodriguez**, Rep star **Liesl Batucan**, opera diva **Karla Gutierrez**, icon **Atom Henares**, Fila designer **Rio Lambuson** and **Dustin Reyes** of Ateneo all sang a song each as the guests toasted and sang along. "Victories come and go, passion lasts a lifetime," as the Fila slogan puts it.

MODELS POSE. Fila Ferrari Vintage footwear collection with clothes styled by Noni Diza

BRIGHT, YOUNG AND STYLISH. Alexi Alunan, Monique and Marty Albert

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

Fragrance is like fashion

Kinny Salas

BCBG has launched four new fragrances to suit every woman's personality or one woman's varying moods. BCBG is an acronym for a French Parisian slang phrase "bon chic, bon game," meaning good style and good attitude. Max Azria believes that fragrance is like fashion. It gets you noticed and you become someone new and different each time you wear it. Women should have a selection of perfumes they wear like a wardrobe that changes with their moods.

Now let me introduce to you the four fragrances of BCBGirls. And it will be up to you to figure out what suits your personality.

Nature. Color: green—the color of nature and renewal. Promotes harmony, peace and balance.

Icon: Leaf. A refreshing citrus fresh floral—the perfect choice for the natural girl. Tangerine and green aquatic accords are the fresh, clean scents of the top notes. The heart or middle note has floral tones such as freesia, rose and lily of the valley, producing a feminine, fragrant bouquet. The warm musky dry down includes heliotrope, which adds a second skin and feel to the fragrance.

Nature's personality: She possesses a natural beauty that glows from within. She is balanced and radiates calm assurance. She is curious and experiences the world in her own way. She is spiritual and grounded. A good listener and gives sound advice. Best-friend material.

Star. Color: pink—increases excitement, energy, sensuality and intensity. Pink attracts those who are ambitious, impulsive and extroverted.

Icon: Star. An opulent floral bouquet, this fragrance is soft and voluptuous, yet warm and rich. The top notes contain magnolia flower, exotic leaves, velvety apricot and tamarind that add a soft feminine quality to the fragrance, while the hearty middle note has a floral bouquet with rose petals, jasmine and modern tuberose. The smooth warm base notes are enhanced by amber, vanilla and musk, giving the fragrance true-star quality.

Star's personality: She sparkles with a certain "*je ne sais quoi*" that is enviable. She is divine and radiant with her dazzling style, and she is the center of attention. The epitome of glamour, she is an icon and born to be a star.

Metro. Color: blue—the color of confidence and wisdom. Blue can also make one more communicative.

Icon: Cityscape. Feel the energy of the city with this crisp white floral fragrance. Metro is perfect for the chic, modern girl-on-the-go. The top notes possess the unique effervescent freshness of the Japanese *yuzu*, a lemon citrus, while the heart is a combination of floral and apricot. A warm, woody, musk dry down provides a long-lasting quality to the fragrance.

Metro's personality: She is bold and chic and always on the go. She faces the world with confidence and has a wonderful, fearless quality, yet reflects a sense of self-possessed chic. She is worldly savvy and wise.

Sexy. Color: amber—deep rich shades of amber are known to soothe and relax. Amber promotes warm, expressive and intimate feelings.

Icon: Lips. The warmth of this luminous sheer oriental makes it the ultimate sensual scent. A spicy mandarin accord and red berry add fluidity and a fresh top to this fragrance. The deep rich floral and clove of the heart are a great lead into the intoxicating sensual dry down.

Sexy's personality: She is flirty and playful, and comfortable in her own skin. She exudes a sense of freedom, a sophisticated sensuality.

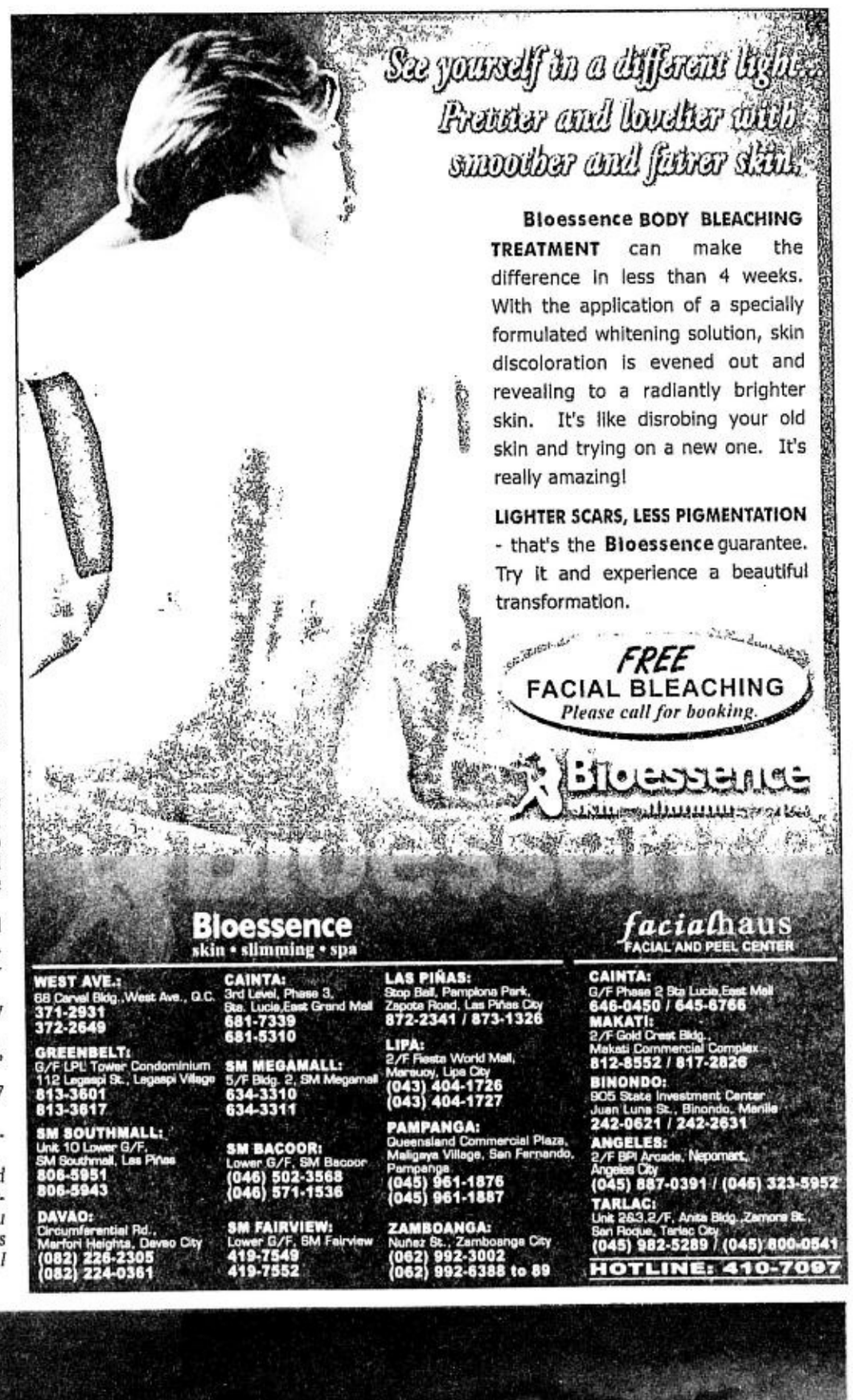
Prices: Eau de Toilette spray Vaporisateur l.7 oz/50 ml, P2,450

Perfumed body lotion 6.7 oz/200 ml, Pl,550

Perfumed bath and shower gel 6.7 oz/200 ml, Pl,450

Available at leading department stores.

Check out www.bcbg.com and take the 10-question quiz to figure out your personality. You may just be surprised. I always thought I was a Metro but I was identified as a Star!



A friend's sudden change of heart confuses her

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I just broke up with my boyfriend because a long-distance relationship is not okay with him. It's hard for me, too.

Our breakup was totally unacceptable for me, because I know that there are other reasons why he broke up with me. Things aren't really clear between us.

While I'm still getting over what happened, I met this guy in school. He's my blocmate. I've been enjoying his company, even before my boyfriend and I broke up. He knows lots of things about me. We talk about things that made sense. We used to exchange text messages a lot. We even talked on the phone; we once talked about how we react when we see our crushes, and I see that in him when we're together. It's pretty obvious—he likes my company, too.

But one day he didn't talk to me at all. I was so confused why this was happening all of a sudden. Even our classmates were asking me why we're not together anymore.

Once, I saw him at the computer laboratory in our library. I wanted to approach him and see if things would be the same again, but as I walked toward him, my guts went below zero. Instead, I turned my back and walked toward the exit. But then somebody asked me why I was there at the library. It was him. I just made an excuse that I wanted to photocopy something, but then there were just too many people falling in line. I asked him why he didn't talk to me at all. He said I shouldn't think that he's avoiding me; it's just that he had nothing to say.

Now, things are really different between us. I think he doesn't want me to be his friend anymore. I just can't find any reason why he is staying away from me.

I really felt something for him. There were many times that I wanted to tell him about it, but I thought it would be such a turn-off. Once, he told me that he finds it amazing whenever a girl has the guts to tell the guy about how she feels for him.

I really need your help. Please give me advice about this.

HOPELESS GIRL

I have a theory about this guy and I hope you give it some serious thought. Not to make him look bad, but I think that part of the reason why he used to be comfortable and friendly with you is because you were attached to someone else, only that other person was not around. You were attached to someone to be nonthreatening to him (meaning there was no immediate danger of you becoming his girlfriend), yet you were free or distanced enough from your boyfriend for him to be friendly with you. Like what I've said, I don't mean to make him look bad; I just think that the guy probably has fears about a formal commitment (and he's not alone in that). So now that you're officially free, he got scared that the two of you might work out as an official couple, and just kept himself away from you.

You're not really his problem; it's your freedom and availability that bothers him, because now, it's not safe anymore to act chummy with you. That sucks, yes, but that's the way some people are. Of course, this is just a theory. Who knows, maybe he has other reasons from pulling away. But you're right: his change in attitude is so apparent that there has to be a reason for it. You can ask him what the real reason is and tell him that you're not buying his "*wala lang*" answers, but that is one risky action. However, if you believe what he said about admiring girls who are able to express their feelings, then go ahead. Just be careful with what you will say and how you will say it.

I sincerely hope you would figure this whole situation out soon. Good luck.

SEP

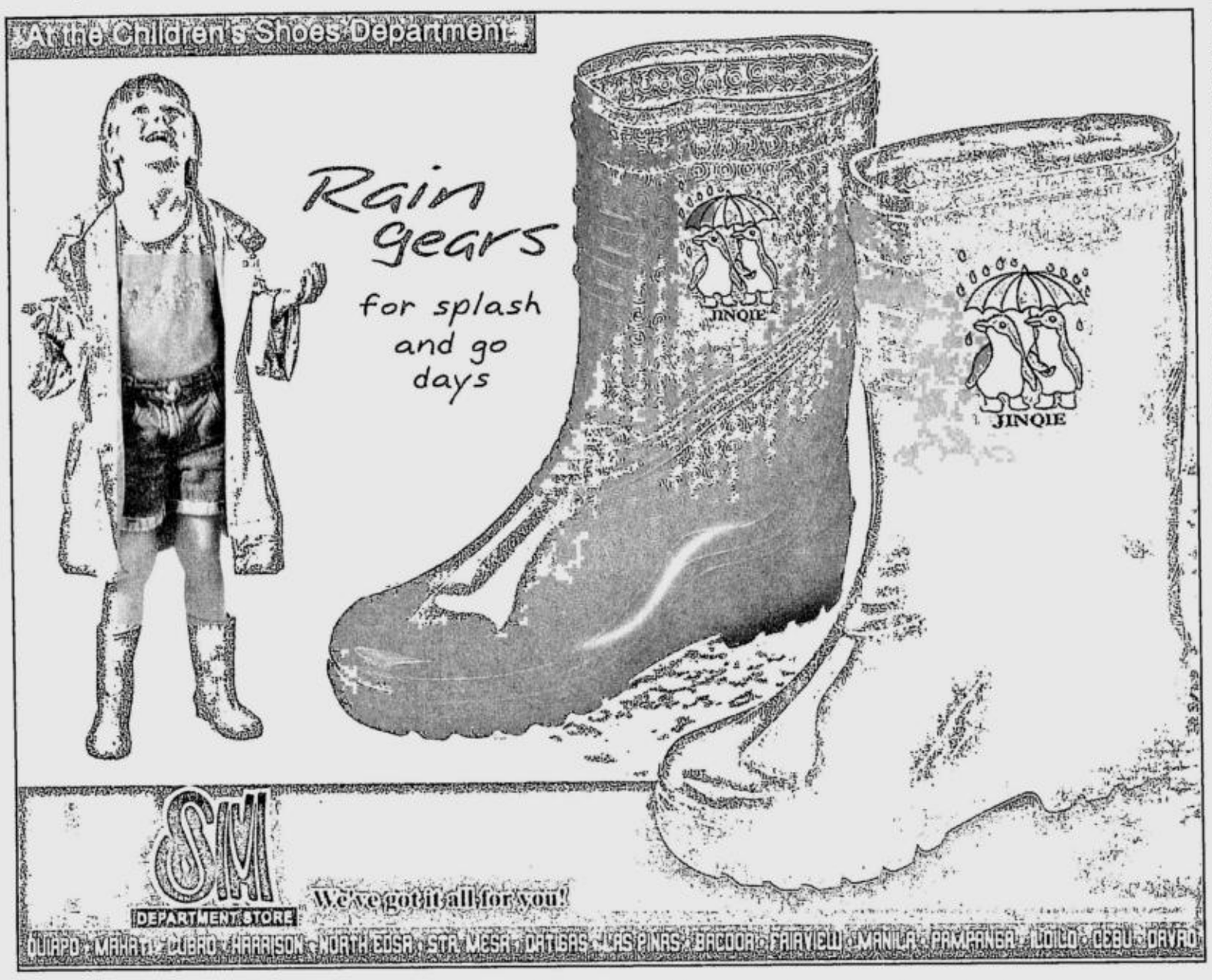
In high school, relationships are so simple. Everyone has the same schedule, the same classes and the same feeling of imprisonment—movement being confined to within campus walls. Groups of friends, or *barkada*, have every reason to be very tight-knit. You eat the same food, hate the same teachers and pretty much, have the same stories to tell. For some though, there are commonalities that make for exclusive partnerships. It is in this micro selection that the understandings between people, who, erstwhile, were one among hundreds of a roughly collective profile, couple with another, enjoying a unique understanding of high-school life, the world outside and of each other.

In college, things are slightly different. Although you go to school with people generally from the same age group, there are differences that start to become more and more pronounced. Firstly, your choice of course separates you from old friends. And in meeting new friends, values, individualism and priorities set you apart from the rest of the horde. It is in this atmosphere that we determine our own profile, and it is here that we also make significant choices of people with whom we want to associate with.

This is the main cause of the distance between you and your blocmate. You've already covered ground that is just a reproduction of the getting-to-know-you process in high school. You're hanging out with this guy because you were thrown together by some basic choices that you made, but beyond that, perhaps there is not much else to make you stick.

If you don't have the guts to go about your own business, regardless of whether you acknowledge his presence or not, then you should go back to cute, predictable, high-school life, where all your choices are made for you.

CARLOS

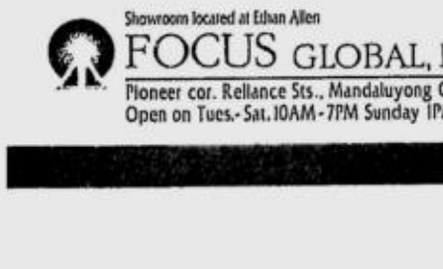


SieMatic® Kitchen

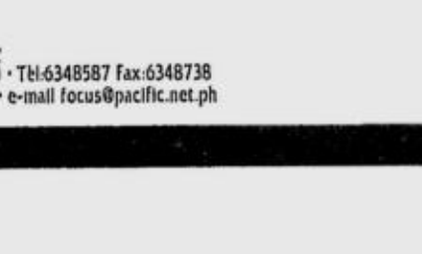
Pinnacle of German Quality
... right in your kitchen!

Every SieMatic kitchen shows details testifying to its constant strive for excellence. The rich color and variety of SieMatic door styles, the award-winning* design details that show features unique only to SieMatic, and modern and traditional style trends are all exceptional.

Visit our showroom to see the pinnnacle of German quality, where each kitchen shows details that provide beauty, safety and ease of use.



A suitable place for the family silver - the wooden sliding drawer with special fleece to prevent the silver from tarnishing.



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Reformist bloc agonizes over GMA 'dilemma'

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

1,482 new doctors

A TOTAL of 1,482 out of 2,507 examinees passed the Physician Licensure Exam. Carlos Q. Santos topped the test with a rating of 86.75 percent. The other Top 10 examinees were Ma. Sherry N. Caimol, 85.83; Paul C. Santos, 85.75; Sheila R. Alcantara, 85.33; Kristine G. Arano, 85.33; Norman. S. Novis, 85.25; Paolo S. Silva, 85.17; Rico C. Estrella, 85.08; Renee G. Sicam, 85; Sofronio C. Ramirez Jr., 84.92; Erin C. Baldos, 84.83 and Christina L. Cifra, 84.83. For the complete listing, log on to INQ7.net.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Thursday, August 22, 2002 ★★ 46 44 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 255 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

Cory: Get real, Kris

By N. Bordadora and C. Esguerra

THIS time, Kris Aquino seems to have tested her mother's patience.

For the first time since the 31-year-old TV game show host

CORY: GET/ A12

Cory: Time to heal rifts and work together

By Norman Bordadora

AS THOUGH calling attention to the deep rifts in society, the widow of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. yesterday said it was time to "set aside our differences and work together" to achieve his "dream" for the country.

Former President Corazon Aquino made the call for unity during the observance of her martyred husband's 19th death anniversary at the Manila Memorial Park, with President Macapagal-Arroyo and newly resigned Education Secretary Raul Roco in attendance.

"It's time to think about what else we can do for our country," said Ms Aquino, who was dressed in her trademark yellow. "I can see that there are some of Ninoy's really good friends whom I have had differ-

CORY/A12

EDWIN BACASMAS

KISS for reconciliation of President Macapagal and Raul Roco (at left), but Mama Cory herself appears not quite ready to make up with Kris.

Nene to FVR: Tell all you know about Ninoy murder

By Rocky Nazareno and Juliet Javellana

THERE was a key personality who was in a position to know about the murder of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino but who has yet to speak up. And it is former President Fidel Ramos, according to opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

As chief of the Philippine Constabulary and concurrent Armed Forces vice chief of staff during the years the country was under martial rule, Ramos should reveal now whatever he knows about the Aquino assassination.

This was the challenge hurled by Pimentel yesterday on the occasion of the 19th death anniversary of the slain former senator.

"As PC chief, it is impossible for Mr. Ramos not to have known about the planned murder of Ninoy. Or if he did not

NENE/A12

Abus seize 6 preachers

Jehovah's Witnesses reportedly selling Avon products

By Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THREE weeks after the close of a supposedly successful RP-US military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's oft-repeated claim that her administration had crushed the bandits, the same group reared its ugly head in nearby Sulu.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino yesterday said Abu Sayyaf bandits abducted Tuesday morning six local preachers of the Jehovah's Witnesses, a fundamentalist Christian sect active all over the world.

Senior Supt. Ahiron Ajirim, Sulu police chief, said the latest Abu Sayyaf hostages were seized while selling Avon cosmetic products in Barangay Kaunayan, Patikul.

Tolentino, chief of the 104th Army Brigade based in Sulu, said the Witnesses were selling Avon products "merely as a come-on to would-be converts."

But Ajirim said his men found no evidence the witnesses were promoting their religion in the predominantly Muslim area.

Army soldiers have begun shelling Abu Sayyaf positions in Patikul. Patikul Vice Mayor Esmon Suhuri said the Army shelled suspected Abu Sayyaf hideouts around Patikul on Tuesday night.

Residents heard at least 10 ground-shaking artillery blasts. The fighting was the first in the war-stricken area in months.

In the past, the military has refrained from launching major attacks against the Abu Sayyaf bandits while they held hostages.

Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, head of the Southern Command, said two battalions were also deployed in the area to rescue the hostages.

Carolina said the bandits might use the six preachers as human shields amid an ongoing military operation to rescue three Indonesians being held by the Abu Sayyaf.

The three Indonesian seamen—Muntu Jacobus Winowatan, Jul Kipli and Pieter Lerrich—were kidnapped off Basilan in June by pirates who later turned over their hostages to the Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu.

Tolentino identified the latest kidnap victims as Nori Bendijo, Cleofe Bantolo, Flora Bantolo, Lurimil Bantolo, Lionel Mantic and Emily Mantic.

Bendijo has been staying in Jolo for 20 years now, while the other victims reside in Zamboanga City, according to Tolentino.

Officials initially reported that eight people had been kidnapped. But two of them, identified only as Mr. and Mrs.

ABUS/A4

Senate row costly for Angara et al.

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE SENATE gridlock was politically costly to opposition senators led by Sen. Edgardo Angara, head of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Their approval rating dropped at the height of the Senate gridlock, according to results of a nationwide survey conducted by Pulse Asia from July 13 to 27.

While Angara's rating dropped, that of Sen. Ramon Revilla rose more than 10 percentage points. Revilla, who was in the United States for medical treatment when Angara's group staged a coup in the Senate in June, remained with the administration party.

Revilla's son-in-law, Sen. Robert Jaworski, whose switch to the administration bloc helped end the impasse before the 12th Congress reconvened on July 22, also saw his approval rating rise.

The survey showed that Angara's net approval rating plummeted 12 points, from 66 percent in April to 54 percent in July. His approval rating slipped from 77 percent to 66.

SENATE/A12

Reformist bloc agonizes over GMA 'dilemma'

By John Nery

CIVIL society representatives working with the Macapagal administration are now questioning their basis for supporting President Macapagal-Arroyo.

At least three major meetings have already been held in the last several weeks beginning with the controversy over the resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona as foreign secretary and the appointment of pro-Estrada oppositionist Sen. Blas Ople as his replacement.

The meetings attempt to list the group's "bottom lines"—issues which may push the group to withdraw its support from the President.

When pressed, civil society leaders say the list is still a work in progress. One draws the lines in the sand in general terms: more rightist rhetoric, lack of participation at the grassroots level.

Others define the flashpoints in terms of political appointments: if retired Ombudsman Aniano Desierto were named to the Supreme Court; if political operator Ronaldo Puno were appointed formally; if pro-Estrada Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta replaced Raul Roco at the Department of Education.

NINOY HEIRS, DADONG'S DAUGHTER

An T — **TEAM** *Report*

Still others point to specific issues: more Balikatan exercises; an escalation in the President's red-baiting; even the reimposition of the death penalty (because, as one source said, "the Church is a very big part of civil society").

But the "bigger threat," says Teddy Lopez of Kompil, is the "2004 factor."

At the Ateneo, Dina Abad, dean of the Ateneo de Manila School of government, spends most of her time "dealing with government people." The school conducts programs for government officials that, she says, "help prepare and support them ... in this effort to reform."

REFORMIST/A13

New gambit propels DENR head past CA

By Cynthia D. Balana and Gerald G. Lacuarta

A GAMBIT never tried before at the Commission on Appointments proved crucial in the confirmation of Heherson Alvarez yesterday as environment secretary.

His confirmation came after seven hearings that started last year and saw 20 groups and individuals opposing his appointment.

Twenty CA members invoked Section 16, paragraph 2 of the CA Rules, which states that "the commission, on petition of at least 13 members" may

NEW/A4

JESS YUSON

HEHERSON Alvarez (here with wife Cecille) is pleased that his confirmation happened on Aug. 21, the 19th death anniversary of his fellow freedom fighter, Ninoy.

LAMITAN FIASCO

AFP chief to convene general court martial

By Cynthia D. Balana and Martin P. Marfil

CONTRARY to the declaration of its spokesperson, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has not cleared three of its officers accused of colluding with Abu Sayyaf bandits during last year's hostage-taking in Lamitan, Basilan.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu yesterday said he would convene a general court martial composed of five to nine generals to try a major general, a colonel and a major. It is the AFP chief who convenes a court martial.

Cimatu was in the Senate where the bicameral Commission on Appointments unanimously confirmed his ad interim appointment as AFP chief and promotion to four-star rank.

In Camp Aguinaldo, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes also said that Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Col. Juvenal Narcise and Maj. Eliseo Campued had not been cleared.

But Reyes said that during the Senate inquiry he told lawmakers that there were "operational lapses" but

AFP/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2002

Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/22/02

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Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
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Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

We're not bankrupt—Palace

By Juliet L. Javellana and Carlito Pablo

"THE GOVERNMENT is not bankrupt. No government ever goes bankrupt."

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin repeatedly made the assertion yesterday amid heightening fears the budget deficit caused the peso and the stock market to fall Tuesday.

At the House of Representatives, congressmen were in an uproar over the budget crisis that would adversely affect their "pork barrel."

Boncodin submitted the President's budget message to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., in which she asked for an P804.2-billion budget to be "invested in a strong republic."

The proposed budget has the biggest increase for tourism and includes salary hikes for soldiers and policemen.

"Not just not yet (bankrupt), it could never happen," Boncodin said when asked if the government was nearing bankruptcy as some House members claimed.

Earlier, over radio station dzMM, the budget secretary said, "Governments don't go bankrupt. It can never happen to this government or to any government."

She said that unlike the private sector, which is vulnerable to bankruptcy, governments could exercise two powers to correct the situation—cut expenditures and borrow some more.

Budget crisis

The Macapagal administration had set a P130-billion deficit cap for this year.

With expenditures outpacing revenue collections, the deficit rose to P119 billion in June and projections are the P130-billion target may have been breached in July.

Boncodin asserted, however, that there was no need for the President to declare a state of "unmanageable public sector deficit," or a budget crisis, just yet.

"No, not at this point. We are still awaiting the July operations (figures) and after that we will assess the situation again," she said.

She admitted, however, being "anxious'" about the July figures.

But even as Boncodin downplayed the anxiety, De Venecia proposed measures to raise funds to curb the deficit.

The Speaker proposed the immediate release to the government of the $700-million Marcos deposit being held in escrow at the Philippine National Bank and the P100-billion coconut levy fund.

"The deficit is not a runaway horse. It is controllable and I am confident it will be wiped out," De Venecia said.

'Controllable'

But both administration and opposition congressmen voiced pessimism revenues would catch up with government expenditures.

Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, vice chair of the House ways and means and appropriations committees, said that at P119 billion currently, it was a certainty the deficit would breach its target.

Lapus said the only way for government not to top the P130-billion target was not to spend money in the next four months.

Minority Rep. Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan said the government was now technically in a state of "unmanageable budget deficit" because the quarterly deficit target had been breached.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said, "The government has practically declared itself bankrupt."

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, who delivered a speech questioning the state of government finances, said a reported plan of Malacañang to declare a state of unmanageable budget deficit was "very alarming" as it would undermine congressional power over the purse.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., chair of the appropriations committee, said it would be better for Malacañang to admit that a budget crisis already exists.

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FUNDING MODERNIZATION

Deficit forces Comelec to seek ₱5-B DBP loan

By Blanche S. Rivera

DETERMINED to implement its controversial modernization projects, the Commission on Elections is seeking a P5-billion loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines, which it proposes to pay in 10 years.

Comelec commissioners Rufino Javier, Luzviminda Tancangco and Florentino Tuason Jr. met with representatives of the DBP in Makati City Tuesday afternoon to ask for the loan, a first for the poll body if approved.

Tuason, who was appointed to the Comelec last year, once served as chief legal counsel of the DBP. Tancangco is a member of the Comelec modernization committee while Commissioner Javier is also a banker.

They were fielded by Comelec chair Benjaminn Abalos Sr. to negotiate the terms and conditions of the loan because of their relevant experience and knowledge of the modernization plans.

The loan application came after the Department of Budget and Management slashed the Comelec's modernization budget from the proposed P6.2 billion to only P1.2 billion due to the government's huge budget deficit.

Commissioner Resurreccion Borra, another member of the modernization committee, said that it was the DBM that advised the Comelec to ask for a loan so it could proceed with its modernization plans.

The seven Comelec commissioners met with Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin last Saturday to discuss the shortfall in the budget allocation for the Comelec, which asked for a total of P10.7 billion for next year.

The Comelec would have to set aside at least P500 million for the next 10 years, along with interest, to pay the DBP, if the loan would be approved.

"Nothing is certain yet. They have to talk about it," Javier said in a phone interview yesterday, adding that the DBP representatives merely said that they would bring up the matter to the bank's officials.

The Comelec is set to conduct a public bidding for the purchase of counting machines in November if the poll body secures the budget for the counting machines.

Abalos said that the Comelec would need around 2,000 counting machines under the project Automated Counting and Canvassing of Results System (ACCORS).

The ACCORS would need P2.5 billion, with each counting machine estimated to cost $25,000. The machines should eliminate fraud during elections and hasten the proclamation of winners from two months after elections to only three days.

The Comelec is bent on acquiring the counting machines and training its personnel by next year to ensure a smooth implementation for the 2004 presidential election.

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Quest for Research-Based Policymaking

It's Chavit's ring vs Erap's necklace

By Volt Contreras

IT'S now Erap's necklace versus Chavit's ring.

Weeks after Luis "Chavit" Singson told of the P13-million necklace Joseph Estrada allegedly gave as birthday gift to his mistress Laarni Enriquez, it was the turn of the former Ilocos Sur governor to be grilled about a ring he allegedly gave to a "lady friend" of his own.

Estrada's court-appointed lawyers yesterday belied Singson's claim that he helped other Estrada friends raise P13 million to pay for the necklace by drawing P1.2 million from the former president's alleged jueteng payola coffers in 1999.

Still cross-examining Singson, defense lawyer Prospero Crescini presented another version of what happened to the P1.2 million: Yes, the amount went to Enriquez, but it was Singson's payment for a ring he had bought from the former starlet, she being into the jewelry business.

That ring, Crescini said, was Singson's gift to a "lady friend" residing at Euroville townhomes in Sta. Ana, Manila.

This, the lawyer said, explains why a P1.2-million check Singson issued from his Metrobank account—which he claimed to hold Estrada's jueteng collections—got deposited in Enriquez's account in Philippine Savings Bank's Murphy branch.

The check had been presented by state prosecutors as part of the purported paper trail of Estrada's jueteng payola racket.

Singson shook his head and denied Crescini's story, although giving a seemingly embarrassed smile before the Sandiganbayan justices.

In an interview after the hearing, Crescini said the defense panel will present a witness belying the necklace story and supporting that about the ring—in yet another bid to project Singson as a weaver of concocted tales against Estrada.

Crescini said Singson's friend to whom he gave the P1.2-million ring resided at Euroville, "which is along the Pasig River where his yacht, The Escalera, usually docks."

During his direct examination last month, the prosecution star witness recalled how he and other Estrada friends agreed to contribute P1.2 million each to pay for a P13-million necklace Estrada gave Enriquez.

2 N. Korean defectors given transit to Seoul

THE PHILIPPINES will allow two North Korean defectors to transit the country en route to South Korea after seeking asylum at the Albanian Embassy in Beijing, an official said yesterday.

Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja said the men were scheduled to arrive Wednesday night aboard a China Southern Airlines flight and leave Manila for Seoul on Thursday.

Baja said the Philippine government allowed the defectors to transit for humanitarian reasons following a request from the Albanian Embassy in Beijing.

"They're arriving tonight," Baja told The Associated Press, declining to provide other details.

The Chinese government informed the Albanian Embassy that the men, who did not carry any documentation to prove their citizenship, would be allowed to leave the country after security checks, said Kujtim Xhani, Albania's ambassador to Beijing.

The men, who say they are brothers, had lived in the northeastern Chinese province of Jilin for the past four years and worked as farmers, Xhani has said. They gave their ages as 22 and 26.

The two men scaled the embassy fence on Tuesday, saying they wanted to go to South Korea.

In a statement Friday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said it was handling the case "in accordance with principles of international law, domestic law and humanitarianism."

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Pinoys facing wage cut in Saudi with Dole blessing

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Manny Villar yesterday called for a Senate inquiry into the agreement between the Department of Labor and Employment and the Saudi Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in Saudi Arabia which effectively reduced the minimum wage of unskilled Overseas Filipino Workers there from $200 to $130 a month.

In filing Senate Resolution No. 407, Villar, chair of the committee on foreign relations, said there were allegedly disadvantageous provisions in the agreement that may impact negatively on OFWs in the kingdom.

The agreement was forged between the DOLE and Saudi Arabia from May 25-28 of this year during a meeting by Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas with Saudi government officials.

Villar said the drastic cut was unwarranted and will impact negatively on the thousands of unskilled workers employed in the Gulf.

"Our OFWs sacrifice being away from their families just to earn a decent living. Cutting their wages is being insensitive to their needs, uncalled for and ill-timed," said Villar.

The senator said the Senate investigation will propose corrective measures to ensure that the rights and interests of affected OFWs will not be compromised.

"We must not tolerate shabby treatment of our OFWs who bring billions of dollars into the economy and help keep it afloat," he said.

He said the inquiry will give DOLE the chance to explain the agreement so that it may be reviewed by the body.

Villar also explained that under the Migrant Workers Act of 1995, the status on bilateral labor agreements between the Philippines and the host country must be reported to Congress.

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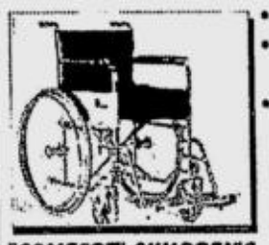

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DOH, PRC oppose bill on malpractice

THE HEALTH department and the Professional Regulatory Commission believe that existing laws are sufficient enough to address the problem of malpractice in the medical profession instead of coming up with a separate law on this.

This was the way the two agencies put forward its opposition to the passage of House bill No. 4955 or An Act Punishing the Malpractice of Any Medical Practitioner in the Philippines, which was deliberated on for the first time yesterday by the House committee on justice.

In the hearing, Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said that there are other laws that the public can turn to in malpractice cases, citing that the Revised Penal Code can address the criminal aspect of a malpractice and the Civil Code of the Philippines for seeking damages.

PRC head Antonietta Fortuna-Ibe said that her office accepts malpractice cases but the general public was not aware of this.

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Abu Sayyaf seizes 6 preachers in Sulu

From page A1

Suliman, showed up at their homes Wednesday, saying they spent the night with relatives and were surprised by the attention. Police were investigating.

The couple—the only Muslims in the group—served as guides when the Witnesses entered Barangay Kaunayan.

Ajirim reported two men with pistols stopped the jeep carrying the five women and three men and forced them out their jeep.

Ajirim said his men found boxes of Avon cosmetics in the jeep. New York-based Avon Products Inc. is the world's largest direct seller of beauty products and has thousands of salespeople in the Philippines.

Kidnapper identified

Ajirim said the gunmen left behind the driver, who later identified one of the kidnappers as Muin Maulod Sahiron, a nephew of the one-armed Abu Sayyaf leader Radullan Sahiron.

Carolina said the young Sahiron had been involved in kidnapping in the past.

Tolentino said Muin Sahiron's group was behind the abduction of ABS-CBN reporter Maan Macapagal and her cameraman Val Cuenca two years ago in Sulu.

Sources said the ABS-CBN management paid ransom, but the broadcast network denied the report.

Suhuri said the rural folk were in the middle of a major harvest and renewed fighting could disrupt the relative prosperity the area has enjoyed this year.

Stocks fall

The recent years of kidnapping have hit tourism and the economy nationwide.

On Wednesday, the 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 2.1 percent on news of the kidnapping, which came amid fears of a widening national budget deficit.

The Abu Sayyaf has often kidnapped for ransom but more frequently has abducted poor Filipinos to serve for weeks or months as slave labor.

Most hostages have been released. But more than a dozen have been killed in the past year, while some beheaded. The group also has kidnapped women to force them to marry Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The Abu Sayyaf kidnapping abated somewhat in February when Manila and Washington launched the Balikatan counterterrorism exercises in Western Mindanao, particularly Basilan.

For six months, about 1,200 US troops trained and provided logistical and intelligence support for the Philippine military's push to eradicate the Abu Sayyaf.

The joint exercises ended officially three weeks ago, although a few Americans remained in Basilan to finish infrastructure projects.

Abus crushed

US Navy Adm. Thomas B. Fargo, chief of the US Pacific Command, said in a speech at the closing ceremonies on July 31 that the military campaign left the Abu Sayyaf "in disarray and on the run, unable to find the money or the time to eat, rest and resupply."

President Macapagal-Arroyo and US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone also said earlier that the joint campaign had crushed the Abu Sayyaf, which has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The bandits in Sulu, about 80 km southwest of Basilan, are from a different Abu Sayyaf faction and suffered less from the intense offensives that the military says decimated the Abu Sayyaf on Basilan.

In June US-trained soldiers, helped by US surveillance and communications, tracked down the Basilan bandits holding the last of their 102 captives: American missionaries Gracia and Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap.

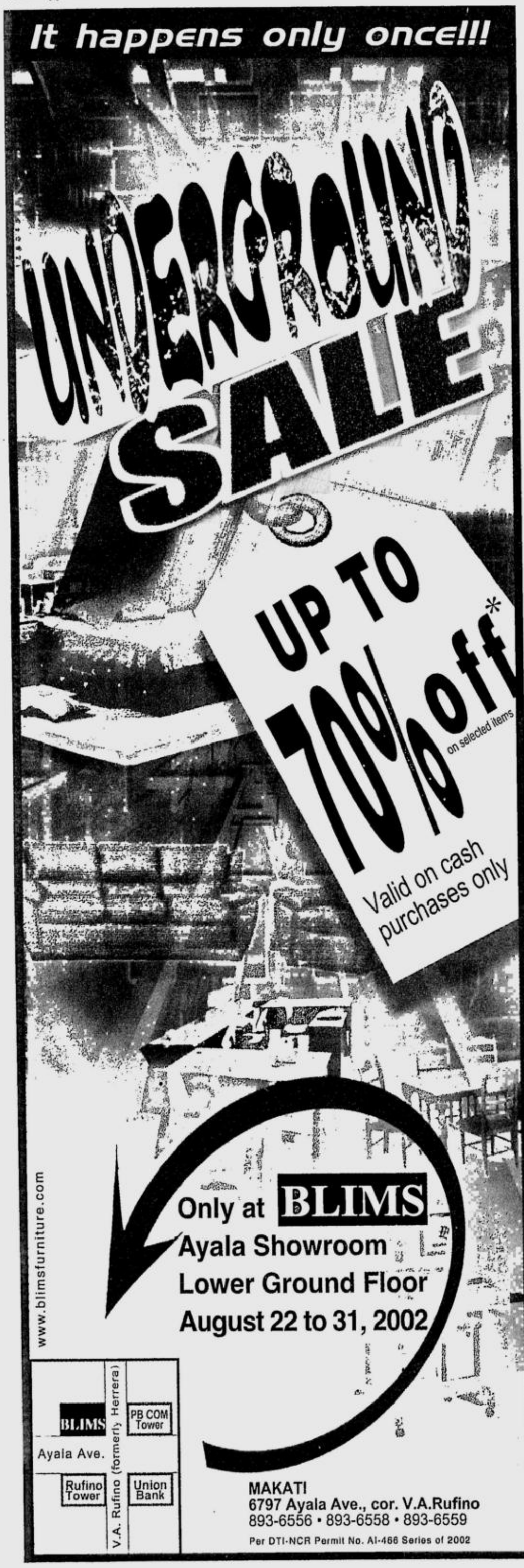
On June 7, soldiers rescued Mrs. Burnham, but her husband and Yap were killed. Abu Sabaya, the Abu Sayyaf leader who led those kidnappings, was believed killed with two of his men in a clash at sea two weeks later. But reports persist that he's still alive.

A Filipino, Roland Ullah, is still being held from another Abu Sayyaf mass kidnapping two years ago from a tourist resort in Malaysia.

The US mission in the Philippines was the first expansion of the US war on terrorism outside Afghanistan.

The Balikatan operation, unprecedented in the Philippines, involved the deployment of US troops in a combat zone and lasted much longer than normal joint maneuvers, sparking protests throughout the country.

With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters



AFP chief . . .

From page A1

that no soldier colluded with Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The defense secretary said court martial proceedings would start as soon as the Senate furnished the military with its report recommending the court martial of the three officers.

The Senate committee on national defense and security and the committee on justice and human rights have recommended a court martial for Dominguez, Narcise and Campued for violating the Articles of War. Twenty senators signed the committee report.

But on Monday, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, AFP spokesperson, said a board of inquiry had cleared the three officers.

Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, parish priest of Lamitan, has accused the three officers of allowing Abu Sayyaf bandits to leave town on June 2, 2001 after receiving part of the ransom for some of the hostages.

The bandits, led by Abu Sabaya, stormed the Dr. Jose Ma. Torres Memorial Hospital the previous night, bringing with them the 20 hostages, including three Americans, they seized from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27, 2001.

Purificacion's statement prompted senators to warn the military against ignoring their recommendation.

Senate President Franklin Drilon had warned the AFP of a backlash from the public if it ignored the Senate recommendation for a court martial.

Sen. Manny Villar said that senators did not like the idea of their report being ignored by any branch of the government.

"I believe that there's more to this. And we don't like the idea of being ignored (by the AFP)," he said.

Villar supported Drilon's proposal to file charges before the military Ombudsman should the AFP refuse to initiate a thorough inquiry into the case.

"Some people died (in this incident) and they could not just ignore this," Villar said.

Not true

"It's not true that we're ignoring it. We respect the rest of the recommendations (in the Senate committee report)," Cimatu said. "Based on this recommendation, the court martial or the military justice system will start once we have received the committee report," he said.

The general court martial will be open to the public and the accused will be represented by their lawyers, according to Cimatu.

Cimatu said the presiding officer of a court martial must be a three-star general, one rank higher than Dominguez, who is a two-star general.

The presiding officer of the court martial must come either from the Philippine Navy or the Philippine Air Force. Dominguez, a division commander, is with the Army.

The rules provide that there be at least one member of the bar sitting in the court martial. Cimatu said he would insist that a lawyer from the Judge Advocate General's Office (Jago) sit as a member of the court martial.

Dominguez will be the second general to be subjected to a court martial, but the first two-star general.

In 1992, retired Brig. Gen. Manuel Mariano, then chief of the AFP Logistics Command, was made to go through court martial for alleged irregularities in his command. Cimatu, however, could not recall the verdict.

Suspended

Cimatu noted that the investigation of Dominguez, Narcise and Campued conducted by the inspector general was not completed.

He said the investigation was just preliminary and had to be suspended in deference to the Senate investigation on the same issue.

Cimatu said the military investigation had been overtaken by major events such as the Balikatan joint military exercises with American forces.

"The proper word is suspension because the investigation was suspended so it never completed the process," he said.

Col. Froilan Maglaya, the inspector general who conducted the preliminary investigation, said the work of the investigators slowed down because they did not want it to be muddled by the Balikatan issue at the time.

"There were other priorities then, other complications. Also, I had difficulties approaching hostages for their own reasons," Maglaya said. He was with Cimatu during the CA hearing.

Maglaya said his investigation would not be stopped once a court martial was convened.

He said the thrust of the investigation was purely administrative—to find out the truth and how to correct and improve the system.

Cimatu said the court martial would take care of the penal violations

New gambit propels DENR head past CA

From page A1

directly consider a nomination or appointment, and thereupon, vote on it.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the direct petition disregarding the authority of the CA committee was a "novel idea" never tested before.

Alvarez, secretary general of the ruling Lakas-NUCD, noted the special significance of his confirmation, which coincided with the 19th death anniversary of the slain Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.

Alvarez was among the opposition leaders during the martial law years who joined Aquino in exile in the United States where they waged a sustained anti-Marcos campaign.

"Against his (Aquino's) act of heroism, this painful episode in my life pales in comparison to what Ninoy had to do for our people's sake," Alvarez said.

He admitted that the confirmation process had been trying for him and his family. He is married to theater artist and environmentalist Cecille Guidote Alvarez.

"We have been made to bear a lot of unjust criticisms and to suffer slander and abuse with as much grace as we can muster," Alvarez said.

Humbling experience

"While it was a humbling experience, it is a necessary process in recognition of our people's right to demand the highest qualities from their servants," Alvarez said of the confirmation process.

Alvarez was best remembered as the one who filed the impeachment complaint against deposed President Joseph Estrada in the House of Representatives last year.

Rep. Vicente Sandoval (Palawan), who earlier objected to the nomination of Alvarez, a former senator and congressman, did not vote against the confirmation of Alvarez in the plenary.

Neither did he invoke Section 20 of the CA Rules to defer the confirmation of the nominee. Instead, Sandoval made a manifestation to Drilon, and later on the floor, questioning the petition of the 20 CA members.

Because of this, a closed-door caucus among CA members was held before submitting Alvarez's appointment for voting. At the caucus, Rep. Bella Angara-Castillo (Aurora) said the minority in the CA insisted that Section 20 controlled Section 16.

Castillo said that in the end, CA members agreed not to disturb Section 16 and instead go through the usual process of the committee submitting for plenary voting the appointment of any nominee.

"They would have won if there was a division of the House since we are a minority," Castillo said. "But we stressed that Section 20 was meant to protect the minority and question the nominee."

Rep. Raul del Mar (Cebu) said that in the end, both sides agreed not to invoke either Section 16 or Section 20 of the Rules and proceeded with the voting.

Alvarez said he was heartened by the overwhelming show of support from CA members.

He said he was ready to face the charges leveled against him by those who opposed his appointment in their proper forum.

"We have a full agenda ahead and we can move forward with greater freedom, flexibility and scope," Alvarez said in a "Statement of Unity and Recognition" in which he expressed appreciation to the members of the CA for their "fairness and even-handed handling."

"We must now look forward, even more watchful against those who will seize every opportunity to rape our land and take advantage of our people," he said.

Since being appointed in March 27, 2001 up to his confirmation, Alvarez had received pressures and countless accusations from political and business interests adversely affected by his policies.

Opponents

He faced stiff opposition from congressmen allied with Cavite Rep. Plaridel Abaya whose son, Peter Anthony Abaya, was sacked by Alvarez as head of the Environment Management Bureau for allegedly allowing the importation of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons beyond standard limits.

Alvarez's confirmation was also delayed by the opposition posed by Malabon Rep. Federico Sandoval and his father Vicente, who questioned his Department Administrative Order No. 17 that extended municipal waters to 15 km from the shoreline to the detriment of big commercial fishers.

The Sandoval family is involved in the building and repair of fishing boats in Malabon.

Alvarez also crossed swords with his own party mate Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay over the expired timber license of the Paper Industries Corp. of the Philippines (Picop), which was lobbying for an integrated forest management agreement (Ifma) from the DENR.

Last month, Pichay filed a graft case against Alvarez before the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly favoring a Singaporean firm, which was granted an Ifma. Alvarez dismissed the complaint as a harassment case and accused Pichay of lawyering for Picop.

Libel suit

A few weeks later, Alvarez was accused by Picop officials of asking for "something substantial" in exchange for the Ifma at a meeting in the Manila Hotel in April. Alvarez denied the allegations and filed a P30-million libel suit against Picop president Teodoro Bernardino, a Picop information officer, and Pichay.

During his word war with Alvarez, Pichay was accused of conflict of interest and unexplained wealth by the Anti-Graft League of Surigao del Sur before the House committee on ethics.

After the bickering, Alvarez said it was now time to strengthen the DENR.

"Unless it becomes credible it will not be able to summon the support of our people in the task of saving Mother Earth," he said.

Alvarez's confirmation came just as he ordered the closure of the mining operations in Diwalwal, Compostela Valley, following a rash of violent incidents in the area and the degradation of the Naboc River. Mine tailings and mercury are poisoning the river

Despite tough talk, Reds won't abandon talks

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE COMMUNIST National Democratic Front is not about to abandon its peace talks with the government, despite NDF consultant Jose Ma. Sison's recent assertion the group was shelving negotiations until President Macapagal-Arroyo's term was over.

Presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita said NDF peace panel chair Luis Jalandoni has indicated the group was still open to resuming negotiations.

Sison the other day said the NDF would shelve the peace talks with the Macapagal administration and wait to deal with her successor instead in 2004.

"Other than that statement from Joma, we're hearing differently from Luis Jalandoni," said Ermita in a radio interview yesterday.

He said Jalandoni has indicated the peace talks could resume after the government grants the NDF's conditions.

Ermita said two of these conditions were that the government respect all past agreements with the NDF and that the political and socio-economic settlements be discussed separately.

"So we're going to wait for an official statement that the NDF won't talk anymore, because right now we're getting different signals from Joma and Jalandoni," Ermita said.

There were no mixed signals, however, from National Security Adviser Roilo Golez who said yesterday the Philippines would not object if the US sought the extradition of Sison for murder, the Agence France Presse reported.

Washington earlier this month placed Sison's Communist Party of the Philippines and its New People's Army on its blacklist of "foreign terrorist organizations," freezing its funds and barring its members from US territory.

NPA rebels assassinated US military adviser Colonel James Rowe and several other US servicemen in the Philippines in the 1980s.

Golez said on television he was not aware if the US had asked the Dutch government to hand Sison over, but if Washington wanted to put (him) on trial for the Rowe and other murders," it doesn't concern me because (they would be) enforcing their own laws".

While Rowe was killed in Manila in 1989 and Philippine authorities have jailed two of his convicted guerrilla killers, Golez said Washington could presumably invoke the fact that the victim was an American.

However, since "it happened here in the Philippines, there could be some legal complications if they invoked that." ***With Agnes E. Donato and a report from AFP***

US aid to RP cut by $30M

THE MILITARY won't be getting $30 million out of the $55 million earlier promised by the United States as part of its anti-terrorist campaign.

According to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, the $30-million fund was withheld after President Bush decided not to approve the $5.1-billion package approved by the US Congress.

What could be used by the Philippine military, Reyes said, would be the remaining $25 million fund which had already been approved as it was part of a supplemental budget.

"The $30 million is part of a larger package of $5.1 billion (which) was not signed by the President of the United States, so we will explore other ways of securing this $30 million,"Reyes said.

Braganza denies link to drug lord

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

SAYING he was disturbed by reports linking him to a suspected drug lord, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza has denied knowing a certain Michael G. Say who was said to be under police surveillance for his alleged involvement in drug trafficking.

Recent news reports have named Braganza as one of the acquaintances of Michael Say, the founding chair of the Crusade for Better Philippines Movement which

was said to have commissioned the latest Social Weather Stations survey that showed an improved satisfaction rating for President Macapagal Arroyo.

Say was said to have provided advise to a number of government officials, including Braganza.

It was later reported that a certain Michael G. Say was included in a confidential list of 197 individuals under surveillance by the defunct Narcotics Group for alleged involvement in drug trafficking.

Braganza said he was surprised that the news reports named him as one of the acquaintances of Say.

"Let me state on record that I do not know Michael Say, the CBPM chair, or a certain Michael G. Say, the alleged drud lord," Braganza said.

Justice admits there's corruption in courts, but . . .

A SUPREME Court justice yesterday acknowledged there were corrupt judges in the Philippines, but said efforts were being made to rid the courts of what he called "a few hoodlums in robes."

Justice Artemio Panganiban told the American Chamber of Commerce that the government started a program last year to fight corruption in the legal system. He did not elaborate.

Panganiban said "corruption remains the single most persistent problem that erodes public confidence in the courts. "Prevalence of graft had given rise to the perception that "for the right price, some judges would deliberately misinterpret the law," he said.

"While there are a few hoodlums in robes, I assure you that the vast majority are men and women of integrity and competence," Panganiban said.

Last month, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said foreign investors have a "real problem" working with Philippine courts because of corruption.

Panganiban said Chief Justice Hilario Davide was scheduled to meet Ricciardone tomorrow to discuss his complaints. ***AP***

DSWD to help Pinoy 'illegals'

SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said yesterday the government is sending a welfare attache to Malaysia to assist the thousands of illegal Filipino migrants being deported from Sabah.

Soliman placed at around 10,000 the number of Filipinos the Malaysian government has kicked out since January.

She said the Department of Social Welfare and Development has so far facilitated the return of 7,687 deportees to their places of origin in the Philippines.

The DSWD has also provided them with close to P3 million in assistance in the form of transportation, food, medicine, clothing and funeral services.

But while Filipinos try to stave off deportation, a Pakistani was caught trying to sneak into the Philippines yesterday with Filipino deportees from Malaysia.

The Agence France Presse reported that the unidentified Pakistani man was among a group of more than 500 Filipinos picked up from Malaysia by a Philippine navy ship, the Bacolod, which brought them to Zamboanga City on Wednesday. ***With an AFP report***

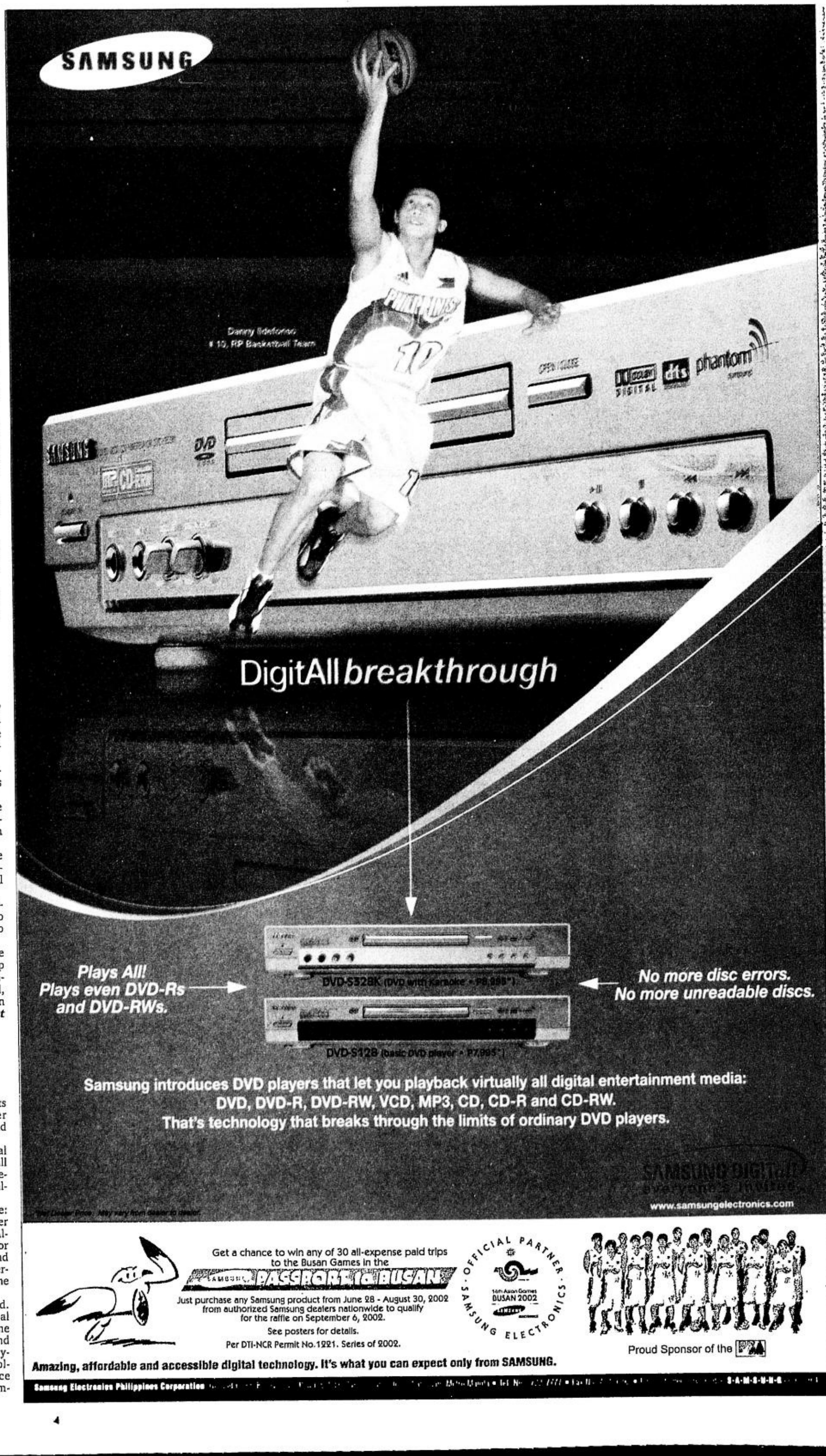
RP urged to use more 'clean' fuel

THE COUNTRY w. have to pay twice for its continued reliance on coal for its power needs—first for the cost of importing coal and second for the consequences of burning it.

This was the position of the international environmentalist group Greenpeace in its call for the government to increase the use of renewable energy and reduce the volume of coal-fired power nationwide.

Launching its report Burning Our Future: The True Costs of Building Coal-fired Power Plants and the Case for Renewable Energy Alternatives, Greenpeace demanded support for clean and renewable energy, like solar, wind power and modern biomass, including preferential tax breaks and regulations to reflect the true cost of fossil-fuel electricity.

"Coal is expensive because it is imported. It is also a dirty energy. The burning of coal releases greenhouse gases that damage the [illegible] In comparison, the sun and the wind [illegible] they are found just about everywhere in the Philippines and they don't pollute our atmosphere," said Greenpeace Southeast Asia Climate and Energy Cam[illegible]



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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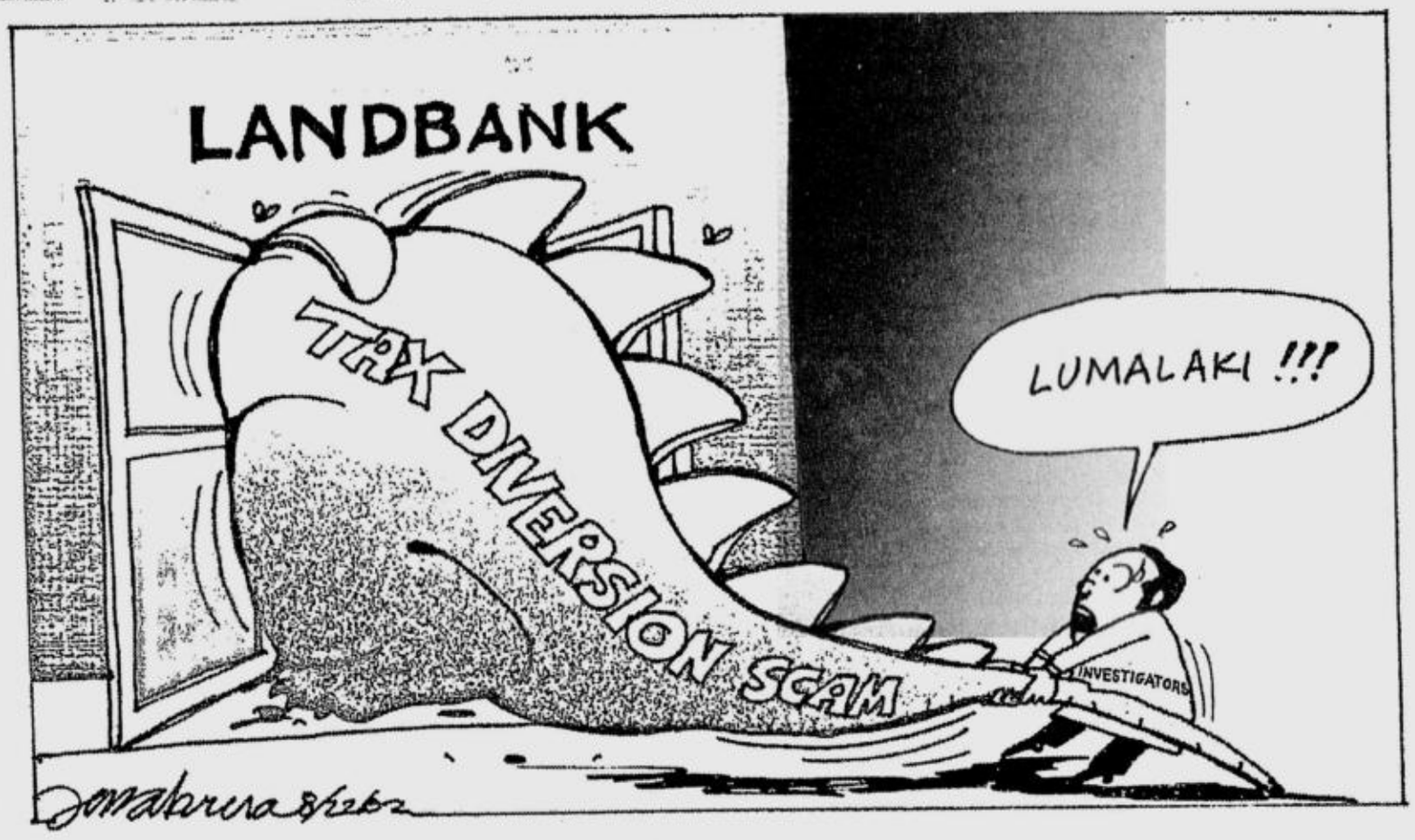


Recipe for paralysis

EDITORIAL

WITHIN THE SPACE of one year, three senior officials of the Macapagal administration have quit their positions in the wake of "people power" pressure staged by civil servants under their jurisdictions. They are Vitaliano Nañagas II who resigned as president of the Social Security System in August 2001, Raul Roco who resigned as education secretary last Aug. 13, and Rene Bañez who resigned as revenue commissioner last Monday. In each of these cases, these officials were put under the gun by their underlings who highlighted their abrasive management style and who apparently felt threatened by the reforms they had initiated.

To be sure, the restive civil servants detailed other charges against them, but the defining element of their taking to the streets was their resistance to reforms. In putting pressure on these officials, their "people power" caused so much disruption that it forced these officials (especially Nañagas and Bañez) to hand in their resignations. In all three cases, bureaucrats denounced these officials' "management style."

The Makati Business Club described Nañagas' resignation as caving in to "mob rule." President Macapagal-Arroyo, faced with paralysis and disruption of services caused by the SSS strike, relieved Nañagas, but said "this should not in any way be viewed as precedent-setting and be an excuse to backtrack on reforming our various agencies and to challenge our executive discretion."

The SSS unions hailed the departure of Nañagas as a "victorious precedent." But it was undoubtedly a dangerous one.

Obviously, lightning struck twice in the case of Bañez, whose managerial style and whose project to undertake major administrative reforms in the BIR, represented by the Internal Revenue Management Authority (IRMA) brought the stalemate in the BIR to a head. The showdown came at a time when the administration was caught in the vise of a revenue collection shortfall and a rising fiscal deficit which curtailed the government's capacity to finance pump-priming programs.

Bañez's reforms and his "transformational" zeal in carrying them out were seen to be threatening to the job security of the BIR employees, as well as to the corrupt practices of BIR officials he accused of "sabotage."

Be that as it may, an ugly issue has emerged from the circumstance surrounding the exit of these officials. The issue concerns the politicization of the bureaucracy and the contagion of people power into the bureaucracy as a means to block reforms.

No doubt, government employees have derived inspiration from successful people power manifestations in the political realm. People power toppled two presidents in 15 years. These two examples have encouraged similar movements in so-called "civil society," so much so that people power has become a handy weapon to push for capricious change at the expense of building or rebuilding institutions.

The United Nations Human Development report recently warned against the abuse of people power as an instrument for social and political change. While the Philippines is "one of the foremost countries where the people...are really committed to democracy," the report said, "over-reliance on people power can be dangerous and undermine democratic institutions. You need strong institutions. They are no substitutes, they are complements. The debates in the Philippines obviously touch on these tensions."

One important aspect in the tensions between civil servants and Nañagas and Bañez is that they introduced corporate management culture that clashed with the rule-bound and ossified culture of the bureaucracy. While there is a need to rebuild and strengthen institutions that stabilize democracy in the political sector —such as political parties, the legislature and the judicial system—and in interest articulation, there should be a stop to the politicization of the bureaucracy.

In more stable times, civil service rules were stern against involvement of civil servants in politics in the discharge of their duties. An impersonal bureaucracy is the underpinning of smooth transition or transfer of political power. The over-reliance on people power or street action by civil servants to oust officials they are unhappy with is not only a means of blocking reforms but more so a recipe for paralysis. People power in the civil service undermines political stability.

The other side of the Napocor controversy

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST Aug. 4, this column dwelt on the project director of the Sucat-Araneta-Balintawak (SAB) power transmission project of the National Power Corp. who was accused of irregularities but, instead of being penalized, later ended up as manager of the CBK (Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan) power plant complex. The official, engineer Marcelino R. Abesamis, was accused of contracting to another company work that was already under the scope of the work of another contractor. Thus, Napocor paid twice for the same work, according to auditors who conducted an investigation. Moreover, he did not have any authority to enter into the second contract.

This column wants to be fair to all concerned and gives them an opportunity to answer or clarify issues raised in previous columns. We are now giving such an opportunity to Abesamis who wrote a letter to clarify allegations surrounding the SAB project. He wrote:

"SAB was a fast-track power transmission project traversing Metro Manila. It was undertaken to cope with the expected increase in demand load for electric power in Metro Manila and better reliability and stability to avoid blackouts in Metro Manila.

"Two issues were raised in media: one, whether the construction of the temporary access roads for the erection of transmission towers along the Laguna de Bay shoreline for SAB was under Napocor's scope and, subsequently, whether I was authorized to award the P10-million backfilling contract to Alfine Construction; and two, whether it was detrimental to the government to adopt the backfilling approach rather than another approach.

"Napocor had a contractual obligation to deliver to the contractor of the project (ABB-Siemens) 'necessary land ready for the construction of this project and reasonable means of access thereto.' Two separate legal opinions (dated March 5, 1997 and June 23, 2000) clearly indicated that Napocor was bound by its contract to provide access to the site.

"As to the awarding the backfilling contract to Alfine Construction, it was clear, through official documents and the minutes of a meeting of June 4, 1998 attended by then Napocor president Guido Delgado, board director Gregorio Alvarez, then Napocor corporate counsel Mehol Sadain, then VP-Project Management Engineering Services Thomas Agtarap and myself, that I had been delegated full authority of the Napocor president.

"The minutes read: Delgado: 'I really meant what I said... I have delegated to the SAB project director the full authority of the (Napocor) president in the SAB Project.'

"As to the backfilling vs. barge approach, there were actually three options on how to proceed with the project: (1) undertake backfilling works on the temporary access roads leading to the tower sites and work areas; (2) use barges as means of transportation in going to and from the tower sites; and (3) reroute the line to Sucat Road.

"I had recommended the backfilling approach for technical and practical reasons. Option 3 was out of the question since Sucat Road is a residential zone where several subdivisions are located.

"The barge approach, on the other hand, would have meant an expense of P283 million because of the huge tower erection expenses and attendant labor costs, and would entail spending for right-of-way.

"More importantly, the barge approach would result in delays in the implementation of the project because Napocor would have to wait for the rainy season for the water level of Laguna de Bay to rise. Water level at that time (February 1997) was not enough to buoy the barges.

"These delays would have cost the government an additional DM5 million and P100 million in penalties and charges. To my mind then, as now, this would have been a controversy of scandalous proportions. Needless to say, I chose the technically sound and more practical approach to implement the project.

"As to Alfine Construction, it was the only supplier capable at that time of meeting the requirements as to the size of the backfilling boulders and the speed by which the backfilling would be completed.

"As to the internal audit report cited as the source of media reports, it was never given credence in Napocor because the issues raised were laid to rest by the two legal opinions and other documents. It is the Napocor General Counsel and not the Internal Audit Department that determines the legality of issues such as this.

"The SAB Transmission Project was an engineering challenge because of the situation that presented itself and the time frame by which we had to complete the project given the penalties and charges the government would have paid. We hurdled the challenge and did do well within the confines of what was legal and proper. For hurdling this challenge, I was commended by my superiors for a job well done...

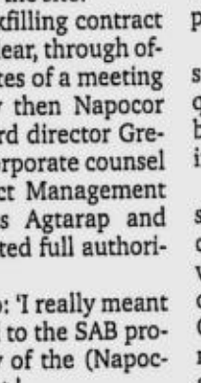
"Lastly, I have been with Napocor for almost 25 years now. I am what you may call a career official. In the more than two decades that I have been with Napocor, I have never been charged administratively or criminally. Of this record I am very proud.

"Once again, I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity to clarify the issues.

"Engineer Marcelino R. Abesamis"

Weird

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

FRANKLY, I cannot understand the reasons Rene Bañez cites for resigning. Even more frankly, I cannot understand the blitheness with which his boss, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has taken them.

Bañez says he is resigning because there's a bunch of unsavory characters in the Bureau of Internal Revenue who are dedicated to thwarting reform and plain honesty. "I strongly believe that a few perpetrators are out to sabotage reforms by deliberately cutting back on collections during the first half. They are undermining the principles behind the reforms through a campaign to misinform the rest of the workforce. By doing so, they are holding the country hostage in their desire to protect their own personal interest. Their actions, however, reveal their motives as they stand in the way of the government's resolve to root out graft and corruption in the BIR."

First off, wasn't it obvious from the start that the BIR harbors a bunch of unsavory characters who would always try to thwart reform because any reform entailed a steep diminution of their income? I've never failed to be amused by the fact that the BIR has established a record for exceptionally high attendance rates. No one wants to be absent for one day because that could represent a loss of thousands, even millions. Corruption has always been there. Now, surely the point of putting Bañez there was to stop, or curb this, while retaining the high attendance rates? Surely the point of putting Bañez there was to at the very least rid the BIR of these dregs and at the very most to file cases against them and jail them for life?

Raul Roco had to deal with a bigger bunch of unsavory characters in the Department of Education, and he did something about it. He did not resign because he could not do his job. He resigned because he was being pilloried while doing his job.

Second off, what does that say about you if you cannot implement reforms because "a few perpetrators are out to sabotage them"? A few perpetrators try to block your desire to cleanse a pivotal government office of its dregs, you expose them and file charges against them. The fact that they are threatening you with harm should make you even more determined to do it, and not make you fearful as hell. This is the first time I've heard anyone resign from government for these reasons. It's saying: "I am resigning because I can't get rid of a few scalawags in my office. Maybe my successor can do better. I wish him luck."

Acsa Ramirez had the balls to name the culprits in the tax scam in the Binangonan branch of LandBank. Despite the reprisal those people could wreak on her and her family, she rose up to do her duty. She was not the head of a pivotal government office, she was only the cashier in an inconsequential branch of a bank. How in God's name could she know the reprisal would come from the very President she tried to help?

Third off, among all the government officials, Bañez had the complete backing of the President. He had the unenviable honor of being singled out in a State of the Nation Address for embodying the government's drive toward reform. Only a few weeks ago, he was defended to high heavens by the President, who said she had an abiding faith in him. Notwithstanding his less than sterling performance in collecting taxes, she said she would back him up and see his reforms through. You have all that power, and you turn tail and run at the first sign of a confrontation with a "few perpetrators"? You have the full backing of the President of the country, and you will not crush the enemy?

Malacañang's acceptance of these reasons is equally breathtaking. Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho, who was with Bañez when he resigned, praised him for his "patriotism and self-sacrifice in taking the road that many would not have dared traverse." What craziness is that?

You want to praise someone for patriotism and self-sacrifice and taking the road not taken, praise Acsa Ramirez. Ramirez saw corruption and sought to stop it, that is patriotism. She feared for her family's welfare but remained steadfast to her duty, that is self-sacrifice. She realized few others had done the same thing, that is taking the road many would not dare traverse.

You see corruption and feel defeated by it, that is not patriotism. You have the power to stop malfeasance but decide your pay is not worth the aggravation, that is not self-sacrifice. You realize it is the right thing to do but will not do it, that is not taking the road not taken. What they are I leave the readers to find their description for.

Ms Macapagal herself was quoted by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye as saying she was accepting Bañez's resignation "with a sad heart" because of the good he had done at the BIR. Has she forgotten she is in the midst of an anti-crime campaign, to demonstrate the earnestness of which she has turned Malacañang into Presinto Uno, humiliating criminals at every turn? Has she forgotten she is in the midst of an anti-corruption program, to demonstrate the confusion head on the choppe

You get a resignation from your BIR ch saying he cannot rid his office of the corrupt and ungodly, or of a few perpetrators who are thwarting his efforts, and your first instinct is to accept it with a sad heart? You get this, and your first instinct is to not tell your protégé to stand pat, get the names of these real enemies of the state and haul them over to Presinto Uno to be humiliated before the world? You get this, and you say, "It's okay, you cannot deal with a few scalawags in your office, that's a daunting challenge all right, maybe your successor can do better, we wish him the best of luck"?

If that is what a strong republic means, well, I'll stop here lest my gay friends tear me to bits.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@yasia.com

Section 16: A first in CA history

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

HEHERSON Alvarez has gone through one of the toughest confirmation processes at the Commission on Appointments in legislative history. He faced no less than eight hearings, during which 19 out of 20 opposition groups and individuals were heard in over 80 hours of deliberations. A number of opposers represented some powerful interests, led by no less than three congressmen: the vice chair of the CA himself, Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval of Palawan; Cavite Rep. Plaridel Abaya, father of former Environmental Management Bureau director Peter Abaya, against whom Alvarez had filed a case with the Ombudsman; and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, a close ally of Picop president Teodoro Bernardino, Alvarez's protagonist.

Last Tuesday the patience of Alvarez, the strategy devised by his supporters in the CA of invoking Section 16 of its rules, and the decisiveness of environment committee chair Sen. Ramon Magsaysay finally got him through the CA. But it was high drama all the way. That he could be confirmed and in a unanimous vote at that, was something even Malacañang found hard to believe, given the forces arrayed against him.

* * *

Sandoval tried up to the last minute to derail the confirmation, and one has to admire his tenacity. At the committee hearing, he succeeded in getting Bernardino to testify. He also tried to bring up again the charges raised by some DENR employees against Alvarez and to have Pichay reinforce Bernardino's testimony. But the committee was obviously in no mood to drag the case any further, after Bernardino's testimony. Sandoval kept decrying the "railroading," prodding Alvarez supporter Fernando Pena, who was watching from the gallery, to quip, "Sandoval keeps invoking the railroad, but he's barking up the wrong department. He should go to the DOTC."

* * *

Over the weeks, Alvarez succeeded in getting the signatures of CA members from both chambers in support of a petition in his behalf, led by the chair and vice chair of the environment committee, Magsaysay and Camiguin Rep. Jurdin Jesus Romualdo. In last Tuesday's fateful committee meeting, he presented 18 signatures (in reality only 17, since Sen. Blas Ople had resigned earlier)—enough to short-circuit the committee process.

Section 16 of the Rules of the CA provides: "The Commission, on petition of at least thirteen (13) members, may directly consider a nomination or appointment and, therefore, vote on it." Alvarez's 17 votes included those of several CA signatories who were not even members of the environment committee. With these votes, Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano, Alvarez's provincemate and chief *bastonero* at the final hearing, invoked Sec. 16 and moved to send the nomination directly to the plenary session instead of first putting it to a vote in the committee.

* * *

It was the first time in CA history that Section 16 was resorted to, and its logic is that a nominee who has more votes than the entire committee membership of 15 deserves to go to plenary right away. Iloilo Rep. Narciso Monfort, who purposely sat next to Sandoval to "keep him in check," quickly seconded the motion. When no objection was raised, Magsaysay banged the gavel and the case was out of the committee's hands.

The beauty of Section 16 is that the nomination cannot be stopped with the dreaded Section 20. In Tuesday's hearing Sandoval threatened to invoke Section 20 during the plenary, but Albano, who knows his parliamentary rules by heart, said he would raise a point of order if he did. But in a heated caucus of the entire CA yesterday noon, led by Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senators Edgardo Angara and Sergio Osmeña III questioned Section 16, arguing that it would "dilute" the dreaded Section 20. They both wanted to defer Alvarez's confirmation by at least a week while a study on the ramifications and legality of Section 16 would be made. But his supporters wouldn't hear of it and voted to get it through plenary right then and there.

The compromise solution was to allow Sandoval, who still couldn't accept Alvarez's confirmation, to enter into the CA records his letter to Drilon, wherein he lambasted the committee hearings as a "sham" and its chair, Magsaysay, for "having totally ignored me."

* * *

As in any confirmation, it was obvious that personal considerations worked in Alvarez's favor. While CA majority leader Gerry Espina doubtless voted for him because of their *pinagsamahan* during the 1971 Constitutional Convention (Romualdo's father, the late Gov. Pedro Romualdo, was also in that Con-Con), Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo parted with his dear friend Brown Sandoval to support his dorm-mate at UP. Alvarez was once the speechwriter of a neophyte congressman from Zambales named Ramon Magsaysay Jr. Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo's late husband, Greg, was his brod in Alpha Phi Beta, and Bellaflor and Heherson were both in the UP debating team. Providing invaluable support were his former colleagues in Congress, Sen. Loren Legarda, Cebu Representatives Raul del Mar and Clavel Martinez, as well as Lakas partymate Sen. Robert Barbers.

But more important to the CA members, doubtless, was the need to protect the environment, especially against big vested interests. This was the message Alvarez succeeded in getting across to the CA and the public. The explosive situation in Mt. Diwalwal and the need for a radical but long-term solution to that 19-year-old powder keg only added to the urgency of confirming the environment secretary. With all the support he got, Alvarez cannot but give his job his utmost, if only to prove his detractors wrong.

BF's war of attrition

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HE'S been called "anti-poor," a "human rights violator" and even a "Hitler." If hosannas were sung to welcome Bayani Fernando when he first assumed the post of Metro Manila Development Authority chair, he's now finding out that it takes more than a reputation as an "action man" to survive the political jungle that is the metropolis.

Upon his appointment, Fernando was hailed as a strong contender for "savior" of Metro Manila, this seemingly hopeless and ungovernable mess of 13 cities and municipalities that make up the National Capital Region. Usually considered the country's showcase, seat of government and most highly urbanized region, Metro Manila is also its greatest embarrassment. It has the highest population density, the heaviest traffic, the highest mounds of garbage, the most serious forms of air, water and land pollution, the highest rates of violent crime, and perhaps the widest gap between the fabulously wealthy and the most abject poor in all the land.

Why anyone would want to govern such a cesspool, much less take on the challenge to solve its complicated and tangled problems is beyond me. And yet here "BF" is, wading into controversy and seemingly determined to make more enemies than is necessary. After all, his predecessors also spoke bravely about taking bold steps to cure the metropolis of its ills, only to fold before they even reached midterm. We would cheer after yet another new and revolutionary traffic management plan would be implemented and vehicles would flow smoothly for a few days or weeks. But months after, the traffic would be as bad as ever, and traffic violators would be up to their old tricks again. So why even try, or hope, right?

* * *

FERNANDO seems bull-headed enough to break through this wall of learned helplessness and hopelessness. Instead of hiring more and more traffic enforcers, who quickly learn the ways of *kotong* cops anyway, he has instead doggedly implemented simple but ironclad traffic rules. "No left turn on Edsa," how much simpler and clearer could you be? And to make sure there's no room left for negotiations, he orders heavy metal barriers across all intersections.

Now he wants to clear the sidewalks and streets of obstructions by driving away illegal vendors, arguing that they belong inside public markets.

Vendors protest that they are merely trying to earn a living and besides, they've been paying police and local governments for their little patches of commerce. They're staying put, they declare. In response, "BF" threatens to swoop down on markets and torch the stubborn vendors' wares to teach them a lesson.

* * *

AN OBSERVER can't help wondering why, in the face of Metro Manila's deterioration, the new MMDA chair is staking his survival on such "small" and "trivial" concerns as left-turning vehicles and sidewalk vendors. And why, despite his being a politician himself, he seems to cultivate the politically hazardous image of the uncompromising enforcer.

Is Fernando setting himself up for failure? On the contrary, I think he's on the cutting-edge of governance trends, based on what criminologists have called the "broken windows" theory.

The theory goes that "if a window is broken and left unrepaired, people walking by will conclude that no one cares and no one is in charge. Soon, more windows will be broken, and the sense of anarchy will spread...sending a signal that anything goes."

This, I think, perfectly explains what has happened in Metro Manila. There are simply too many broken windows that have been left unrepaired, and anarchy has spread faster than an Ebola virus.

* * *

IN THE BOOK "The Tipping Point," Malcolm Gladwell discusses the dramatic decline of violent crime in New York City that he traces to the adoption of the "broken windows" theory by key officials.

It began with the hiring of David Gunn as director of the subway system, then considered "close to collapse." Gunn first went after the graffiti-covered cars, a priority deemed odd given the many more serious problems faced by the transit authority. But Gunn stuck to his guns, and after graffiti artists found themselves foiled time and again by instant cleanups, they stopped defacing subway cars. Passenger traffic increased and public perception of the subway system improved.

Gunn then hired William Bratton as head of the transit police, and Bratton in turn focused his early efforts on beating fare beaters, a problem largely ignored because "with only $1.25 at stake, the transit police didn't feel it was worth their time to pursue it." But in Bratton's view, by cracking down on fare beating, they were signaling that transit police were now serious about eliminating all forms of crime in the system. The criminals got the message.

Bratton was appointed New York City police chief by former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, and he put "broken windows" at work on the Big Apple. Police stepped up enforcement of laws against public drunkenness and urinating in public, and went after "squeegee men," New York's version of our watch-your-car and windshield wiper boys. Again, the message was heard loud and clear. By cracking down even on "trivial" crimes, authorities showed they were dead serious about criminality in general and this, among other reasons, has been cited for the dramatic decline of crime in New York.

I don't know exactly where "BF" is going with his war of attrition against sidewalk vendors, but if it turns Metro Manila into a safer and more liveable place, he has my support.

'A time remembered'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"LET ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life."

That is the last line of "The Earth Charter," the document that shows the way to preserving this planet, a covenant for life that should be etched on every leaf and stone, on the mountaintops and ocean beds, on every living thing and, most of all, on every human heart.

All roads lead to Johannesburg, South Africa, where the World Summit on Sustainable Development (also called Rio+10 because it comes 10 years after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro) will be held from Aug. 26 to Sept. 4.

The Earth Charter serves as a unifying document that should be overwhelmingly endorsed not only by delegates to the summit but also by those among us who are not in Johannesburg to make an earth-shaking input. The charter should not simply be endorsed in writing but through the example of our lives. But first, it must be read, understood and signed, with our names. Then with our breath, spirit and actions, it must be brought to life. Otherwise, it would only be words on paper, like vows that have not been lived.

The Earth Charter Initiative seeks to develop a worldwide support base of individuals, groups (civil society, business, churches, etc.) and governments that would push for environmental protection and the building of a just, sustainable and peaceful world. It uses the charter to generate action and raise consciousness.

So what does endorsing The Earth Charter mean, aside from simply reading and affixing a signature? It means utilizing the charter to review one's life, a business operation, or a vision and mission and then to examine, improve, modify or intensify one's commitment to the Earth and everything in it. In other words, walk your talk, put your money where your mouth is.

After going over The Earth Charter I realized that it is not a general motherhood statement or a nice little Desiderata. It goes point by point, it is very specific. Like, love means doing this and that.

The Preamble starts with, "We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise..." It provides the present-day scenario and states what is expected of us. It is simply stated but I could feel its grandness, I could hear some kind of cosmic music playing.

Contained in Principles are ways to achieve the goal. One can't go through the principles and not be overcome with zeal, or guilt. Principles is divided into four: (1) respect and care for the community of life, (2) ecological integrity, (3) social and economic justice, and (4) democracy, nonviolence and peace. Every section and subsection presents detailed modes of action. For example, under ecological integrity and its subsection on preventing harm, it says, "Avoid military activities damaging to the environment." Another subsection says something about lifestyles vis-à-vis material sufficiency in a finite world.

And because it is all about Planet Earth and us, the charter cannot but include gender equality, respect for cultures and beliefs, eradication of poverty, corruption, discrimination. It tackles health and education, too. People and animals, young and old, women and men, living and nonliving things. Mind and heart, body and spirit.

It is the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule, "Love one another" in specifics. How can it go wrong?

The initiative began in 1994 under the leadership of Maurice Strong, former secretary general of the UN Conference on Environment and Development and chair of the Earth Council, and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, in his capacity as acting chair of Green Cross International. Representatives from 30 countries and more than 70 groups joined in the workshop that drafted the charter. The Earth Charter Project was later set up at the Earth Council based in Costa Rica.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, it is hoped, would endorse the charter for signing at the Johannesburg Summit. I understand she was presented with a copy and signatures yesterday.

Read, study, discuss, sign, send. Or meditate on it. It vibrates with life and hope. It's a map to the King/Queendom, our home.

Get a copy of The Earth Charter by writing to info@earthcharter.org, from www.earthcharter.org or the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission (JPIC) of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines, Tel. 7256605, 7231333.

* * *

Congratulations to Franciscan Sister Mariani Dimaranan who was honored by the Philippine Lasallian Family with the first Star of Faith Award last Aug. 13.

Sister Mariani, 77, was chair of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines from 1975 to 1996 and "was a symbol of the collective courage of people who bravely stood for human rights and resisted state terrorism." She was herself a political detainee. The award was given to her for several reasons, among them: her commitment was non-traditional and radical; her life and action were prophetic; her response was courageous and bold, even to the point of risking her life; and she serves as a role model.

I have walked miles with her. I have climbed several mountains for nine hours with her, to get to a remote village where men bore arms and women fought for their young. Some of those whom she considered comrades would later turn against her, but "Mariani, a woman of a kind" stood unshaken. *Mabuhay ka. Minamahal ka.*

* * *

Comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Poverty

YOUNG BLOOD

Jerick T. Aguilar

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I LEFT the Philippines in 1997 to pursue postgraduate studies in the United States. Five years and three presidents later, the country is in no better shape than when I last saw it, if not worse off.

I can still remember that when I left, a liter of gasoline cost around P12, the minimum fare in buses and jeepneys was P2 and a sack of good rice cost P700. Now prices have soared and it does not take a mathematician to know how much the value of the peso has been eroded since then. The so-called "purchasing power" of the peso sounds like an oxymoron to most Filipinos.

I have always wanted to study abroad, but I never planned on getting out of the country permanently. Rather, I wanted to find out how the Philippines could escape from the clutches of poverty.

I am fortunate to come from a middle-class family. My father was an accountant at the Central Bank of the Philippines and to this day my mother works as a nurse in Saudi Arabia. But it has always bothered me to see so much poverty around me. I know I should feel lucky to be able to eat at least three meals a day, to live in a house that we own and to have a college education. But I feel sad that most of the people around me, including some relatives and friends, do not have the same opportunities that were afforded me.

I thought that studying economics at the University of the Philippines would provide me with answers as to the question that bothered me most: Why has our country remained poor? But once I received my diploma, I found out that I had even more questions than answers.

I decided to search for the answers elsewhere and, as grace would have it, I got a fellowship from the University of California, San Diego, to complete a master's degree. As part of my course requirements, I chose to specialize in Southeast Asia and concentrate on comparative public policy. Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand were the flying geese of the region while the Philippines was the lame duck, so I thought our country could probably learn something from its neighbors.

I did find some of the answers I was looking for, but studying in America for two years and working there for another two years opened a Pandora's box of new and more questions. Why does graft and corruption persist despite popular recognition of the problem and the government's efforts to stamp it out? Why does the Philippines keep borrowing money—only to allocate a huge part of its national budget for debt servicing which, over the years, only pays for the interest? Why do elections produce some of the most incompetent, unscrupulous and egoistic officials when the voice of the people is supposed to be the voice of God? Why do big businesses almost always want to get bigger and oftentimes leaner at the expense of small and medium enterprises as well as of loyal workers who get fired after so many years of service? Why are Filipinos condemned to permanent poverty because of our damaged culture when fellow Filipinos working and living abroad are able to earn a decent living?

Not satisfied with a degree from an American institution, I decided to find the answers elsewhere. I applied to several universities in the United Kingdom for admission to their doctor of philosophy program. I thought this route would lead me to my proper destination.

Unlike the usual course work in a master's program that requires the student to enroll in several classes, take examinations and write essays, the Ph.D. program is much more focused because all that the student has to do is write a thesis. It sounds quite elementary but the thesis should be an original and outstanding contribution to knowledge. It should be an inquiry into a research area where no one has gone before or where no similar inquiries have been made. Simply put, it should be an invention or, at the least, an innovation. I think of a Ph.D. thesis as a written work of art, something that incites and provokes, inspires and impassions, something that gets noticed and criticized. It is something that the artist, or writer, owns and shares with his audience, if not with the world. No wonder it takes three to five years or even longer to write.

Initially I planned to write about the institutionalization of poverty in the Philippines, blaming it mainly on our personalistic politics in which personality matters more than ideology and so much authority is placed on the presidency that the future of one country rests uneasily on one person only. But my thesis supervisor wanted to focus more on the how instead of the why. He sold me the idea of looking at how poverty is solved rather than why it is perpetuated, and suggested that I consider the contributions of overseas Filipino workers to poverty alleviation. The fact that the annual remittances of OFWs are around 10 percent of our country's gross domestic product and such foreign exchange inflows kept our economy afloat during the Asian financial crisis that began in 1997 are clear indications that their contribution is substantial.

At first I was hesitant to pursue this topic because it was not my original idea, but trusting in my thesis supervisor's many years of academic experience, I wrote my final research proposal the next day. My mother herself is an OFW and I have always enjoyed conversing with OFWs in all my travels, asking about their life in the Philippines and abroad. So this research is something that is really personal to me and I can finally put their stories to practical use. Now I am all fired up to talk to as many OFWs as my time would allow and gather as much data as possible—on all 7.4 million of them, if possible.

I will leave the Philippines in September to start writing my thesis after three months of field work. I am hoping that when I come back, the Philippines will be in a much better shape, especially with the help of our OFWs.

Jerick T. Aguilar, 27, was awarded a research studentship at the University of Bath where he is pursuing his doctorate.

THEY SAID

Standing against gambling

"You know my longstanding moral stance and pastoral policy against gambling. And this will not change ever. I need not say more."

—Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz on attempts by illegal gambling operators to bribe the Church

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Higher cigarette taxes for better health

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

WHEN I was doing some last-minute shopping in the United States last month, I wanted to buy cigarettes for the men at the plant I currently manage. I was short of cash, so I thought that that would be a better alternative than buying chocolates. I said to myself, "One carton would be enough."

To my shock, the cashier told me that a carton of Marlboro "Reds" costs $50. In short, the cost was $5 per pack or about P250!

I asked my uncle, an immigrant in the United States, why cigarettes cost eight times more in the United States than in the Philippines. He said that the cigarettes in the United States used to be cheaper; in fact, he used to buy them as *pasalubong* whenever he came for a vacation. Then the US government imposed higher taxes on all tobacco products. They were so high that cigarettes in the United States were considered a luxury item. He explained that the US government did this to discourage people from smoking.

"Why?" I asked him. "Is it because the government cared too much?"

He said, "No! It is simply because the number of diseases linked to smoking has risen. And because of this, the US government was paying more for hospital care and rehabilitation for these sick people instead of using the funds for other things. Increasing the taxes did not lead to a substantial inflow of revenues but the government was able to cut its expenses for treating illness caused by smoking."

He was right. I stayed in the United States for more than a month and hardly saw anyone smoking during parties or in public.

I think that the government should follow what the US government did. If they have already done so, it may not have been enough. If the Philippine government would further increase the taxes on tobacco products, it would not only save the lives of chain smokers but also those who are getting into the vice, especially the youth, and those who inhale secondary smoke. I believe that this will not only improve the revenues of the government but also make our lives in this already polluted country much safer.

—NOEL CARPIO, 1 Molave St., Ramax Subdivision, Diliman, Quezon City

Huge savings realized in Napocor project

THIS pertains to the column of Conrado R. Banal III last Aug. 6, 2002.

The column cast doubts on my integrity as a career official of the National Power Corp. and as the national president of the Association of Government Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics Engineers of the Philippines (AGMEEP) because of the inaccuracies and outright lies that could have been fed to him by people with selfish and vested interests.

Banal's reference to irregularities in the provision of access to the tower sites located in the waters of Laguna De Bay for the Sucat-Araneta-Balintawak Power Transmission Special Project six years ago was grossly inaccurate. He alleged that the decision to adopt the access-road approach over the barge approach cost the government an additional P10 million in expenses. In reality, the barge approach would have cost the government P283 million because it would have entailed huge labor costs and right-of-way expenses. At the same time, it would have meant delay in the implementation of the project since Napocor would have had to wait for the rainy season to increase the water level of the lake. Under the contract with ABB-Siemens, a delay would have cost the government DM5 million plus P100 million in damages and interest.

This issue of the access road to these tower sites has long been settled through two legal opinions issued by the general counsel of Napocor. One opinion said it was Napocor's obligation to provide the access road for the contractor; the other explained the penalties and charges Napocor would have to pay in case of delay in its implementation.

On June 3, 1998, Napocor president Guido A. Delgado affirmed the propriety of my actions on the legal opinions. Subsequently, the general counsel officially declared that there was no evidence to charge me of any wrongdoing. The Napocor board approved the same.

For saving the taxpayers P273 million in additional expenses plus DM5 million and P100 million in charges and penalties, Banal virtually called me a crook.

I was commended by Napocor for my performance as project director of the special project. It was my job to see to it that the project would be implemented, in accordance with the professional ethics and technical excellence Napocor has been known for. For Banal to now say otherwise because he was fed wrong information is irresponsible and deplorable.

I have served Napocor well for almost 25 years now, and never have I been charged for irregularities, criminally and administratively. It is a record that I am very proud of.

—MARCELINO R. ABESAMIS, former project director, Sucat-Araneta-Balintawak 230kV Power Transmission Special Project, National Power Corp.

Agaw cell phone

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

RECENTLY I had to contact a godson, by text. It took some time before I got his reply, an apologetic text that read something like this: "Bapa Mike, sori was at Philcoa, didnt want 2 use cell." That was when I remembered Andre had been victimized some time back by one of the "*agaw* cell-phone" (cellphone snatching) gangs.

Cell phones are The Icons of our age. The cell-phone models tell us about economic status while the accessories, logos and ring tones reflect our sense of aesthetics (or its lack thereof). The text messages, often with graphics, are revealing commentaries about the way we look at religion, politics, sexuality.

The "*agaw* cell phone" phenomenon tells us where we are with regard to peace and order. Andre's reluctance to use a cell phone at Philcoa, a busy commuters' hub near the entrance to UP Diliman in Quezon City, shows how Filipinos have been driven into a mental state of siege, constantly on the defensive with cell phones.

Everyone knows not just one but several people who had their cell phones snatched. Among my friends, the latest victim was an instructor and researcher at UP, who was robbed at gunpoint not in some dark alley but in a bus turning into Ayala Avenue in Makati.

There's something about a cell phone being snatched, whether at gunpoint or not. The cell phone has become a kind of emotional and psychic umbilical cord connecting individuals to society. Cell-phone snatching is particularly violent because it severs that lifeline. The supreme irony here is that what is being stolen is the cell phone, which you need even more badly now to call for help and consolation.

It's incidents like that, with cell-phone snatching stories told and retold, that shake the very foundations of governance. All of the President's posturing with apprehended criminals—real or scapegoats—means nothing when people are so rudely reminded, by these cell-phone snatchings, about their vulnerabilities.

This epidemic of cell-phone robbery is almost inevitable. Their size makes them easy to grab, yet they can bring in so much instant cash, partly because of the rise of a market for used phones being bought and sold, no questions asked. Unfortunately, people do buy hot goods, sometimes even boasting that their cell phone is GSM—*galing sa magnanakaw* (coming from thieves).

We're not about to see solutions soon unless we require dealers to issue certificates of ownership to buyers, and to demand such certificates from people who want to trade in or sell their old phones. The problem there is we'll probably see fake certificates being produced. An alternative is for cell phone companies to block the phone units once a theft is reported, rendering them useless, but then I suspect the thieves will find ways to unblock the phones.

We might want to find consolation in knowing that it's not just in the Philippines where cell-phone theft is a problem. Earlier this year, the British government released a report noting that 1.3 million phones were stolen there last year. (You might also want to find comfort in the report's other figures: 600,000 phones dropped down the toilet and 400,000 into a drink. Another study, by a British insurance company, found men were much more prone to losing and damaging their phones, or having them stolen.)

I've been lucky so far, knock on wood. Last year I lost my cell phone twice, both times overseas, but was able to recover it. The first time was in China, when I was in a van taking me to catch a boat. I had already crossed over to an island when I realized my cell phone was missing. But within a few hours, friends were able to contact the van driver who not only found the phone but had it delivered, through a travel agency, to the island!

A few weeks later, in Taipei, I left my cell phone in a taxi. Fortunately, I had flagged down the taxi from my hotel and was able to get the hotel staff to help. They were able to trace the vehicle I had taken and quickly called the taxi company. The dispatcher said the taxi driver was still out on the road but assured me the phone would be returned. Indeed it was. The concierge called me the next morning to say the phone had been returned. I offered some money to give to the taxi driver for the trouble but the hotel staff said no, taxi drivers were always returning lost cell phones.

There's more to these stories than honesty. What struck me wasn't just the phones being returned but the way they were delivered so quickly. People went out of their way to do something for a stranger, the Chinese van driver coordinating with a travel agency, the Taiwanese hotel staff with the taxi company, without expecting remuneration.

Notwithstanding all the *agaw* cell phone reports, I'm sure we have our share of happy cell-phone stories, too. Maybe readers can share their experiences of wayward phones that somehow made it back, through luck, honesty, or a combination of both.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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The WORLD
Editor Luverne B. Gueco

CHECKING THE FLOOD BLITZKRIEG AP
German Bundeswehr soldiers stand in a line to reinforce with sandbags the dike of the Elbe River near Wittenberge in the eastern German state of Brandenburg, at sunrise Aug. 21. Some 20,000 soldiers were helping to prevent the dikes from bursting. The floods of the Elbe River devastated huge parts of Dresden and the German state of Saxony, and are now threatening the German states of Brandenburg and Saxony-Anhalt as well as Niedersachsen. Across Europe, the flood has killed more than 100 people in past weeks.

Probers say Chechens downed Russian chopper

MOSCOW—Investigators confirmed Tuesday that Chechen rebels had shot down a Russian military helicopter killing 114 soldiers, in the worst loss of the 35-month war which led to a top general being suspended from duty.

"Our latest information is that 147 people were on board the helicopter when it crashed. We have 33 survivors," a grim-faced Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said in televised remarks while inspecting the crash site on the eastern outskirts of Grozny, capital of the breakaway republic.

Ivanov immediately suspended Colonel General Vitaly Pavlov, a Soviet-era war hero who was in charge of the army's air force, for failing to follow proper security procedures and ordered a halt to all flights of the jumbo Mi-26 helicopter over Chechnya.

Meanwhile, Interfax quoted sources in the Russian military command as saying investigators had discovered a Strela missile launcher used by the rebels, and were discarding an earlier theory that the crash was caused by engine failure.

"All the evidence was presented to the investigators and Prosecutor General Vladimir Ustinov" who also arrived at the scene, the source told Interfax.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who earlier called the crash a "catastrophe," declared Thursday a day of national mourning.

Embarrassed army officials had initially refused to believe Chechen claims and suspected that the Mi-26 helicopter—the world's largest and known as The Cow—had crashed into a minefield on Grozny's outskirts after running into engine trouble.

The Kommersant business daily described terrible scenes at the crash site where survivors, suffocating from an onboard fire, broke the helicopter's windows to pile out of the chopper—only to be blown up by mines.

"There was no way of rescuing them," one witness told the daily. "The places needed to be de-mined first."

ITAR-TASS cited "several eyewitnesses" within the military as saying that they saw the chopper being hit by what looked like either a small missile or heavy machinegun fire.

It was the largest single-day loss for the Russian forces since they lost 84 elite paratroopers in a Chechen ambush in February 2000.

And it delivered a potentially-heavy blow to the prestige of Putin's government, which has on repeated occasions pronounced the second war in Chechnya as over and won. *AFP*

Alert raised for new suspect in 9/11 attacks

WASHINGTON—Nearly a year after the Sept. 11 attacks, the FBI issued a worldwide bulletin seeking the arrest of a Saudi man newly identified as a suspected associate of the hijackers.

The bulletin issued to law enforcement Tuesday night across the globe sought the immediate arrest of Saud A.S. al-Rasheed, 21, of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The FBI said the sudden bulletin was based on information developed over the last few days, and it warned police al-Rasheed should be considered armed and dangerous.

"On Aug. 15, 2002, material previously recovered during the war on terrorism were found to be related to several of the Sept. 11 hijackers," the FBI said.

The materials included an image of a Saudi Arabian passport belonging to al-Rasheed which had been issued in Riyadh in May 2000. "Al-Rasheed's current whereabouts are unknown," the FBI bulletin said.

"Al-Rasheed is suspected to be associated with the September 11, 2001 hijackers," the bulletin said.

Two senior law enforcement officials, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday night that al-Rasheed's picture was found among pictures of several hijackers in materials obtained overseas some time ago and recently reviewed at the FBI. The materials were included on a computer CD-ROM, the officials said.

The officials said they did not know how long the government possessed the information before making the discovery but said the bulletin was issued out of an abundance of caution. *AP*

German cops end Iraq embassy siege, rescue 2 hostages

BERLIN—German police raided the Iraqi embassy building in Berlin late Tuesday, freeing two hostages, both of whom were slightly injured during the operation, and arresting five of their abductors.

"The situation is under control," a police spokesperson told journalists at the scene, adding that the raid had been launched at 7:40 p.m.

Police confirmed that the Iraqi charge d'affaires Shamir Mohammed was one of the two people freed.

Responsibility for the incident was claimed by a group calling itself the Democratic Iraqi Opposition of Germany, which had said in a statement that the occupation would be a "peaceful and temporary action."

The group claimed to have about 20 of its members in the building.

Earlier, two people with slight injuries to their eyes from a tear-gas type spray left the embassy, were treated at the scene and then released after questioning as witnesses.

Police said they were very pleased with the outcome of the raid.

The group had stormed the building in the leafy, residential suburb of Zehlendorf at 2:45 p.m. Witnesses said shots were fired but police said they could not confirm this information.

Earlier, in a statement sent to media including German news agency DPA, the group said the hostage taking was the first step against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's "terrorist regime and his killers."

Established Iraqi opposition groups and US officials in Washington, where the administration has said it is seeking the removal from power of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, appeared to have no knowledge of the group.

Baghdad denounced the takeover as an act of terrorism and accused what it said were American and Zionist intelligence services of masterminding it.

In Dubai, a person claiming to be one of the hostage takers told Al-Jazeera television by telephone that they wanted "to liberate the land of Iraq."

"We are determined to free Iraq working from inside as well as outside, and you will all hear news very soon," said the member. *AFP*

Terrorist leader killed self, Baghdad confirms

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Iraq on Tuesday confirmed Abu Nidal's death, saying the feared Palestinian terrorist leader had committed suicide.

Baghdad's first official confirmation of his death came amid claims that Abu Nidal recently held talks with Saudi and Kuwaiti agents and that plans for an American attack on Iraq were found in his Baghdad apartment.

The claims, made on Tuesday by a senior Palestinian official in the West Bank city of Ramallah, were quickly rejected by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

But these reports and the murky circumstances surrounding Abu Nidal's death—he is said to have suffered several gunshot wounds—fueled speculation outside Iraq concerning his final days.

"Yes, I confirm his suicide and an official will give you full details on Wednesday," Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz told reporters on Tuesday without elaborating.

Abu Nidal—who had targeted Israel, Palestinian Liberation Organization figures and Arab officials for associating with Israelis—is widely believed to have been living in Baghdad since sometime in 1999.

On Monday, two senior Palestinian officials in the West Bank said Abu Nidal had been found dead of gunshot wounds last Friday in his Baghdad house. *AP*

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Army seeks parents' help against Reds

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military here has sought the help of parents in the fight against communism.

But despite renewed threats from the New People's Army, former President Fidel Ramos told reporters in Davao City that the people should relax.

He also said that the government's recent declaration of war against the communists would not mean a bigger budget for the military.

"A declaration is far from actual action. Don't panic. We gauge our enemy not by their intention but by their capability . . . take it from (an) old soldier," he said.

The military has consistently said the NPA was becoming stronger although it continues to recruit.

Lt. Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias, chief of the Civil Relations Group for Western Mindanao, said the communist movement has continued recruiting students in the region.

He cited military reports that left-leaning university professors have been taking advantage of the democratic space in schools to indoctrinate students.

Covarrubias said some parents have called his attention to the fact that their children are subjected to communist lectures on pain of failing grades.

"These communist-minded professors are holding their students hostage with promises of good grades in return for their lending ears," Covarrubias said in a press statement.

He said that parents should be intelligent enough to argue with the children who bring up the subject of communism at home.

But Covarrubias declined to identify the so-called left-leaning professors.

"Some of them were in the employ of the government, paid with government funds (and) they are inciting their students against the government," he said.

He said at the height of the Balikatan Exercises here and in Basilan, there was an increase in the effort of professors to indoctrinate students.

Covarrubias said some of the students even joined anti-Balikatan rallies staged by leftist organizations.

Also in Davao City, Bayan Muna Tuesday blamed President Macapagal-Arroyo for the collapse of the peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front because of its all-out war policy against the communist movement.

Robert de Castro, national deputy secretary general of Bayan Muna, said the talks failed due to the "administration's fascist-militarist framework and solution to the growing armed revolutionary unrest."

But Ramos said the Communist Party of the Philippines was allowed to legally exist until it admitted and publicly acknowledged the NPA as its military arm. *Ed General and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Crash compensation

MABALACAT, Pampanga—The provincial government has approved the release of P227,000 for 100 families in this town whose houses were damaged when a Philippine Air Force jet crashed here in May. The damaged houses in Barangays San Joaquin, Poblacion and Mamatitang are within the 100-meter radius of the crash site. Luchie Gutierrez, provincial social welfare officer, said each family would receive from P2,000 to P10,000, depending on the damage on their property.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Power co-op cited

BAGUIO CITY—The Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco) was cited by the National Electrification Administration (NEA) as the top performing electric cooperative in the country. Beneco bested 118 power cooperatives and was cited for having the lowest systems losses at 8.6 percent. The NEA's systems loss ceiling for power cooperatives is 14 percent. Gerardo Verzosa, Beneco general manager, also received the top leadership award from NEA.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Mayor decries order

CABANATUAN CITY—Mayor Cesar Eduardo of Jaen town decried the order from the office of the Ombudsman suspending him for two months for what he said was a "hazy" case against him. "I was not given due process," he said. Eduardo said he was being suspended for signing a resolution of the Jaen municipal council, which ordered the dismissal of a village chief in his town. He said he was not asked by the Ombudsman to explain his side on the issue before it ordered his suspension.
Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Defective weighing scales

BAGUIO CITY—Members of the Baguio Market Task Force (BMTF) confiscated on Thursday 185 defective weighing scales from vendors at the public market here. The BMTF, composed of policemen and employees of local agencies, ordered the seizure after the task force received reports that some weighing scales used by vendors were tampered with.
Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Syndicate members fall

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Police arrested on Saturday a couple suspected to be members of a syndicate supplying marijuana from Banguet, Mt. Province to Laguna. SPO4 Teodoro Abadier of the police provincial investigation office identified the suspects as Sandro Enriquez, 29, and his live-in partner Prescila Papag, 43, both residents of Biñan. A team of the PNP Southern Tagalog Special Task Force executed the arrest during a buy-bust operation on Aug. 17, at Barangay Sinalhan, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Confiscated from the suspects were 40 kilogram of marijuana worth P80,000 and two pieces of P500 marked bills. Also recovered was a .38-cal. pistol.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Wildlife sanctuaries

LEGAZPI CITY—The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office recently identified eight areas in Albay as wildlife sanctuaries. The areas identified as possible wildlife sanctuaries are: Manalt Island in Rapu-Rapu; Mt. Malinao in Manito; Cagbulacao and Busay Falls in Bacacay; Centennial Forest in Lidong, Sto. Domingo; Sitio Mosboron in Misibis, Bacacay; and Lake Danao in Polangui. The areas are said to be forested and inhabited by a wide variety of flora and fauna. Only one has been developed, the Albay Park and Wildlife Center in Barangay Tagas, Daraga, Albay.
Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drug pushers nabbed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Southern Tagalog police arrested 193 drug pushers and users and seized 157 grams of shabu and marijuana in just two weeks. The Laguna police has the most arrested pushers and users with 84 persons. In Mindoro Occidental police arrested eight pushers, Mindoro Oriental operatives arrested seven. Police arrested a pusher each in Marinduque and Palawan. Senior Supt. Medardo B. Apacible, acting regional director, said the biggest quantity of shabu the police recovered came from Palawan's most notorious drug dealer, Joel Payla, 25, resident of Puerto Princesa City. Payla was arrested by the Palawan police recently. Other Calabarzon areas scored considerably against pushers and users with the Cavite police reported to have arrested 24 persons, Quezon and Rizal police with 23 arrested persons each, and Batangas with 22 persons arrested.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BING GONZALES

TOURIST ATTRACTION
Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon does a politico in a bid to promote local tourism during a recent visit to Davao City. Dancing and posing for pictures with members of tribal communities provide sparks to Gordon's tourism bid.

Gloria continues rogue's gallery

CABANATUAN CITY—After a quick visit to Pangasinan on Tuesday to present five suspected car thieves to the media, President Macapagal-Arroyo went to Cabiao, Nueva Ecija, on Wednesday and presented seven arrested suspected members of a rebel group.

The President surprised residents of Cabiao, 36 kilometer south of this city, when she flew in shortly before 1 p.m. and proceeded to the municipal hall where she presented seven suspected members of the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan

The suspects were identified as Alfredo Cruz, Bal Galang, Michael Ortiz, Daniel Simbulan, Jayson Ramos, Bienvenido Ramos and Junny Soliman.

Ms Macapagal, accompanied by Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., left after 25 minutes.

SP04 Flora Lambo of the Cabiao police said the suspects were arrested in Barangay Silang, Cabiao early Wednesday.

Seized from them were six Armalite rifles and a Carbine.

On Tuesday, the President flew to Barangay Poblacion B in Tayug, Pangasinan, and presented five suspected car thieves and drug pushers, including a Marikina police officer, in her continuing fight to "cleanse the police of rascals."

"It is painful to be arresting your colleague but we have to cleanse the police of rascals so the police should be recognized for what they are," the President said. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DENR personnel reshuffled amid poaching complaints

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Western Visayas (DENR-6) has reshuffled its personnel in Negros Occidental in the wake of massive illegal cutting of trees in a forest reserve in Don Salvador Benedicto town, about 47 kilometers northwest of here.

Raoul Geollegue, DENR regional director, on Monday reassigned 14 Forest Management Service (FMS) personnel.

He said the 14 should report to their new posts not later than Aug. 23.

Noel Apilando of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) in Guimaras was transferred to Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental as FMS specialist.

The other newly assigned FMS specialists were Edmund Legayada of Cenro-Cadiz City; Arvi Fernando, FMS of Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro); and Rene Abordo of sub-Cenro Bago City; and Arturo Tobera of Bato Nuevo town, Iloilo.

The newly assigned Land Management Services specialists were Joan Gerangaya of Penro and Eleonor Castro of Cenro-Bacolod. Sonny Dimatulac was also named acting chief of the Binalbagan Sub-Cenro.

The others affected by the revamp were Godfrey Lopez who was reassigned to Cenro Sipalay City; Ma. Gina Consolacion Gerangaya, to Penro Negros Occidental; Edwin Dalida, to Cenro Cadiz City; Bonifacio Yude, to Penro Negros Occidental; and Elmer Gamela and Marvin Cayayan as DENR representatives to Task Force Ilahas.

Gov. Joseph Maranon said those responsible for the denudation of the province's forests should be convicted.

DENR records showed that about 60 hectares of the 35,000 hectare-Northern Negros Forest Reserve Area had been destroyed by unabated timber poaching.

Imelda planning 'Maharlika' as Marcos' grave site

MINALIN, Pampanga—Former First Lady Imelda Marcos isn't only in a rush to bury her husband, the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

She is giving the former dictator a "grand" final resting place and has picked a Kapampangan to design it.

The plan became apparent as Mrs. Marcos on Friday gave Normandy Canlas, an architect and resident of this town, the go signal to finalize the design for Marcos' grave, which would be called "The Maharlika."

The concept for Marcos' grave site would combine the features of a park and garden, Canlas said.

Following reports that Ms Marcos was rushing the burial in Ilocos Norte, the INQUIRER sought out Canlas, who was in the original team of architects that designed a similar project at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in 1999. The project was aborted due to protests.

After several requests, Canlas agreed to an interview Monday.

Canlas, 41, said his new design "delighted" Mrs. Marcos. He said the former first lady agreed with his concept and ordered him to prepare the perspective.

Mrs. Marcos told Canlas that he might work with a veteran architect, a Marcos favorite, whom she did not name.

"I wish we could bury the Apo (Marcos) and give him peace," Canlas quoted Mrs. Marcos as telling him.

Canlas, a graduate of the Mapua Institute of Technology, previously handled renovations of the Marcoses' houses in San Juan, Metro Manila, and Canlubang, Laguna.

He declined to give the project cost, reiterating that everything was still in the preliminary stage.

"It's a study of Mr. Marcos' life. Everything is integrated into the design," Canlas said.

He said it took him two years to study the details and turns in the life of the strongman, who ruled the country for 20 years.

According to Canlas, the motif is "ethnic combined with pneumatic or mechanized features." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

FVR says he considers self GMA's 'kuya'

DAVAO CITY—Former President Fidel Ramos regards President Macapagal-Arroyo as his younger sister.

And as the proverbial "kuya," he said he is compelled to give her pieces of advice, solicited or unsolicited.

". . . it's up to her to take it or leave that," Ramos told reporters here Tuesday.

But the former President said assuming the role of an elder brother does not require him to stay beside Ms Macapagal all the time.

"Hindi rin dapat na palagi ako nakadikit sa kanya. I should distance (myself) from her," Ramos said.

He said talking with the President over the phone or meeting her in Malacañang once in a while was more than enough.

Aside from providing Ms Macapagal with sound advice, Ramos also said he keeps on promoting the country and helps the Macapagal administration in luring foreign investors.

"And nobody is doing this but only an ex-president like me at that," he said.

Ramos also stressed there was nothing wrong with his relationship with the President.

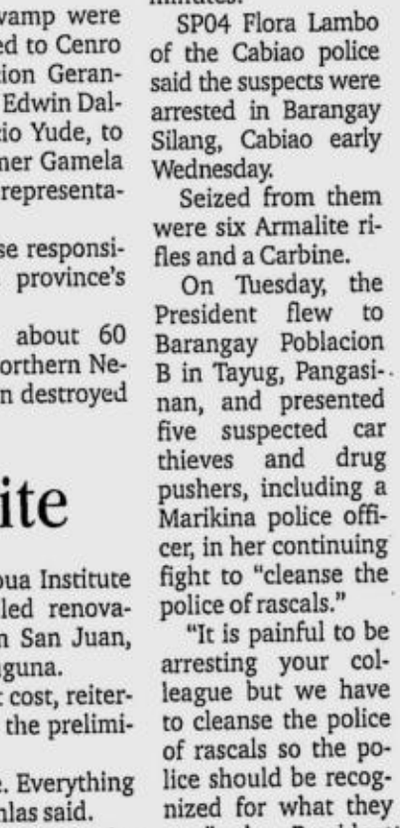
He said President Macapagal also sits well with the ruling Lakas coalition despite policy differences with key party officials.

Earlier, Ms Macapagal and Lakas secretary general Vice President Teofisto Guingona did not agree on the deployment of American forces in the country.

"Sinusuportahan pa rin ng partido, ang Lakas-administration coalition, ang economic program dahil yun ang kanyang priority. Kaya suportahan natin," Ramos said.

With this support, Ramos said speculations that Lakas might sever its coalition with the administration should be put to rest.

But Ramos was not categorical about 2004 and only talked about support for general programs adopted by the Macapagal administration. *Anthony S. Allada and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



INQUIRER Southern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Coal-fired plant meets Greenpeace challenge

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Mauban, Quezon

EVEN before the first pail of concrete mix was poured to erect the pillars of the jetty of a coal-fired power plant in Barangay Cagsiay I, Mauban, Quezon, opposition to the project had already hounded its operator, Quezon Power (Philippines) Ltd. Co. (QPL).

Most of the residents were skeptical about the prospects of the 440-megawatt plant, according to Litz Manuel Santana, QPL public affairs director.

The fear centered mainly on health and environmental concerns, fueled by groups criticizing the "monster facing Lamon Bay."

"When we needed a priest for the blessing of the plant, we could not find any. We went to as far as Lucena City to find one willing to accommodate us," recalled Chuckie Rivera, QPL community relations manager.

But the protests simmered down as QPL launched community projects, Rivera said.

"Our people have come to realize the tremendous benefits that the plant could give to our place when QPL embarked on different projects that could help uplift their lives," Mauban Mayor Dingdong Llamas said.

Financial benefits for the town's coffers also played an important role. "Since the plant operated, our meager annual budget of around P20 million increased to about P200 million from business taxes alone," Llamas said.

The company at present has a 500-strong workforce, including 180 direct employees. Most of the workers are Mauban residents.

QPL is committed to help improve the quality of life of the residents through programs like feeding, education, health and sanitation, skills development, livelihood and environmental protection, Santana stressed.

Threat

QPL is a partnership organized to finance, construct, own and operate the coal-fired power plant. The partners are Intergen, Global Power Investments LP, Covanta Energy Corp. and PMR Ltd. Co.

The plant was built under a "build-own-operate" scheme at a cost of $800 million. Construction began in 1997 and operations started on May 30, 2000.

THE QUEZON Power (Philippines), Limited Co.'s coal-fired power plant in Barangay Cagsiay I, Mauban, Quezon, as viewed from the company's pier where the coal imported from Indonesia is unloaded. DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

QPL sells power to Manila Electric Co. under a 25-year purchased power agreement contract.

It boasts of being the only power-generating firm that has put up in 1996 a multipartite monitoring team composed of members of the academe and representatives of affected local government units, directly affected families and non-government groups.

In 1997, it put up a P5-million Environmental Guarantee Fund to be used for the immediate rehabilitation of areas affected by environmental damages and deteriorating quality.

Concerns for the environment surfaced anew in April when Greenpeace, an international environment watchdog, announced that the Mauban power plant was emitting mercury, a toxic chemical.

"After a comprehensive laboratory test, we found that mercury at the plant was at an alarming level of toxicity," Red Constantino, energy campaigner of Greenpeace-Southeast Asia, said.

"It is much higher compared to the laboratory test result of ash samples taken from the periphery of the Napocor coal-fired power plant in Calaca (Batangas)."

The plant registered a neurotoxin level of 1.9 micrograms/kilogram, Constantino said, citing results of a laboratory test conducted at the Greenpeace Research Laboratories in the University of Exeter of the United Kingdom. Mercury levels detected on samples taken from the Calaca plant ranged from only 0.200 to 0.699, he said.

Challenge

QPL challenged the Greenpeace report. "The operation of the plant does not in any way contribute to mercury emissions, either from its stack or its discharge to waterways," Santana said in a statement.

She said the company regularly monitored conditions at the plant site to ensure strict compliance with all environmental regulations imposed by the government.

URS, an international environmental consultant, conducts the monitoring, she said.

"URS collects samples of seawater from monitoring stations near the power plant, as well as water samples from the plant's clarifier basins and fishpond, and tissues from fish being raised in the pond," Santana said.

She said URS had detected "zero mercury" in the water and sediments, as well as fish from the freshwater pond.

Armando Rutaquio, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said that based on the latest report of the tripartite monitoring team, "no amount of toxic components, which is above the standard set by the government, was monitored. It's all within the allowable limit."

Alejandre Dueñas, chair of the monitoring team and NGO representative, said that "so far, no infraction is being committed by the operators based on our regular monitoring activities."

He claimed that the group's monitoring was independent from QPL's control and influence. "I don't want to sound like a mouthpiece of QPL, but after so many cross-visits in other coal-fired power plants, I can say that the Mauban power plant is the most efficient as far as adherence to government regulations is concerned," he said.

Santana showed a copy of the results of a laboratory test taken by the University of the Philippines' Natural Science Research Institute dated April 25, 2002.

The results revealed that the mercury content of water samples taken from areas near the lighthouse, outfall, intake, jetty, rivers and creeks, and as far as the Cagbalete Island in front of the plant, was only 0.0002 microgram per liter.

Ash questions

Constantino countered that ash, not water, is the best specimen for any laboratory test because it is the direct carrier of toxic metals. He said the fly ash samples from the Mauban power plant were collected from a lorry used to transport the waste to a cement processing facility.

"We collected samples from the last week of March to the first week of April this year," he said. The fly ash also contained 15 mg/kg of lead, a hazardous metal that is toxic to most living things," he said.

Mercury can cause severe brain damage in developing fetuses, and mild tremors, mental disorder, motor and emotional disturbances and even death in exposed adults, he said.

Constantino said the test also revealed the presence of chromium that could take the "hexavalent" form, which has been classified as carcinogenic or cancer-causing by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

But Santana expressed doubts on the source of the ash samples used by the Greenpeace. She said the cement manufacturing firm that gets the ash was also the one collecting the discharge from the Calaca power plant.

Concern

Elizabeth Mossman, secretary general of the Crusade for Sustainable Environment, said the findings of the Greenpeace had validated her group's earlier arguments against the power plant. However, she lamented that she had become a "voice in the wilderness."

"Most of my fellow opposers are now part of the QPL workforce," she admitted. But this does not mean that they have forgotten the issues they raised against the plant.

"The economic necessity, the survival and the grumbling of the stomach are much more influential than the cause they had been fighting for, and I don't take these against them. I understand," she said. "But even if I'm alone, I'll continue the crusade for the sake of the next generation," she vowed.

Brooke's Point: Where Muslims, Christians converge in peace

By Dominique Monera Tabora
Brooke's Point, Palawan

ITS FOREIGN name seems out of place among the municipalities in Palawan, but it speaks volumes about the history of the place.

As history tells us, James Brooke was a British army officer and explorer who gained influence over the natives of Borneo in the late 1830s. For his assistance in quelling a rebellion, the reigning Rajah in Borneo then rewarded him with the governorship of Sarawak.

Because of his successive expeditions against the Dayaks, Malays and Arabs who raided white traders, Brooke was made consul general to Borneo upon his return to London in 1847. He was knighted the following year.

For almost three decades that Brooke ruled as Rajah of Sarawak, Borneo, he suppressed the piratical forays in the region and instituted free trade.

In one of his voyages to patrol the [illegible] the land inhabitants [illegible] native Palawan [illegible] who were once ruled by the Sultan of Sulu. Borneo lies so near southern Palawan that ships can make the crossing in less than a day.

Marker

After putting a marker in the place where he landed and befriending the inhabitants, the name of Brooke remained in the hearts of the natives, so much so that when an American scout named Miller arrived in the place, he called the southern tip Brooke's Point.

In 1896, Brooke's Point was the capital of Paragua Sur and covered all areas south of Puerto Princesa. But it was Datu Bataraza, whose genealogy could be traced from the Sultan of Sulu, who paved the way for Brooke's Point to become a district.

THE PORT of Brooke's Point serves as the gateway to Palawan from Southern Philippines, especially Sulu. DOMINIQUE MONERA-TABORA

It was only on June 28, 1949 that the district of Brooke's Point was converted into a municipality. Its huge land area eventually gave birth to the creation of the four municipalities of Rizal, Quezon, Bataraza and Española. By 1999, Brooke's Point was left with a land area of just 85,064 hectares.

The Pearl of Allah, considered the biggest in the world, was found by a Muslim resident in Barangay Oring-Oring, Brooke's Point in 1934. The pearl, reported to be worth several million dollars, is now with the Smithsonian Museum in the United States.

The family of former councilor Nohman Ismael recalls playing with the pearl, which its members described to be as big as a baseball. Ismael's father gave the pearl to an American doctor in gratitude for curing another son who was gravely ill then. Ismael keeps the shell of the pearl in remembrance of what their father found.

Barter trade

Brooke's Point is the center of commerce in southern Palawan. Due to its proximity to Malaysia, barter trade is a primary livelihood of the Muslims in the town.

Most of the local folk in Brooke's Point have relatives living in Malaysia, which they casually refer to as "*kabila*" (nearby).

Even the indigenous plants and animals of Palawan are more closely related to Borneo's. This is attributed to the geological location of Palawan in the Sunda shelf where Borneo also lies.

Dr. Domingo Madulid traces the "close affinity between the flora of Palawan and Borneo, which is not apparent with the rest of the islands of the Philippines," to a land bridge connecting the two areas that existed long enough to allow migration of dominant western Malaysian-type of vegetation into Palawan during the earlier geological period.

It was the presence of century-old *durian, marang* and *rambutan* trees in Brooke's Point that convinced the Federation of Agri-based Cooperative of Southern Palawan (Facsopal) to initiate the establishment of a scion grove for high-value fruit trees funded by the Palawan Tropical Forestry Protection Program.

Zone of peace

Aside from the distinction of consistently winning as the cleanest and greenest municipality, Brooke's Point has the biggest area of private tree farms in Palawan. Records of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office show that more than 300,000 trees were planted by private tree growers in Brooke's Point.

But the most notable thing about Brooke's Point is the peaceful convergence of various cultures and religions. As this writer has witnessed since 1995, the stillness of dawn is broken by the prayers of an imam in a nearby mosque, followed by the ringing of church bells in the Catholic and Protestant churches. During the "*tabuan*" (market day) every Monday, indigenous Palaw'ans casually mingle with Muslim traders, and Christian residents from Ilocos, Visayas and Mindanao.

While leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front frequent Brooke's Point, there is an unspoken creed among the Muslim fighters not to destroy the peace in the refuge of their old and weary combatants.

Cory: Time to heal rifts and work together

From page A1

ences with. It's time to forget (these) differences."

Since the declaration of martial law in 1972, Aquino had been at odds with Roco who was on the senate staff of her husband.

The President arrived at the cemetery in Parañaque City at about 10 a.m. and exchanged greetings with those present, including Roco.

She left immediately after Fr. Catalino Arevalo, who officiated at the commemorative Mass, administered the final blessings and the Ateneo de Manila University choir sang "Bayan Ko," the anthem of the anti-Marcos movement. She told reporters that her statement on the slain former senator's death anniversary would be issued later in the day.

In the statement, the President echoed Ms Aquino's call for unity.

"Let us all set aside our differences and gather our energies so we can forge ahead ..." she said.

Touching on her current theme, she pointed out that "through (his) supreme sacrifice, Ninoy contributed a most valuable stone in building the edifice of a strong republic."

"I shall continue to lead our people under the same principles that Ninoy lived and died for," she added.

Best wishes

Ms Macapagal was not invited to the anniversary ceremony, but Malacañang informed the family of her desire to attend.

In her speech, Ms Aquino thanked the President for her presence.

"You continue to have my support, and I wish you all the best in your administration," she said, and ended the speech with words of gratitude for the prominent and nameless people who had remained loyal through the years.

After sprinkling Ninoy's crypt with holy water, Ms Aquino, on Arevalo's suggestion, passed the vial to the President. She handed the bottle to Roco after the President had her turn.

Among those present were Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Senate President Franklin Drilon, and Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Asked later whether he thought the Aquinos invited him to the ceremony to have him reconcile with the President, Roco said: "I think it was just (Ms Aquino's) way of saying I have her support (after I resigned from the Cabinet)."

Roco said Filipinos should remember the example Ninoy set when he decided to return from exile in the United States despite the possibility that he would be killed.

"People should remember that the shedding of the blood of the innocent makes tyrants tremble," said Roco, himself a former senator.

Ninoy's only son, Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III, said that while much had been accomplished since his father's assassination, much remained to be done.

"We still have our frustrations," he said. "Knowing that we still haven't accomplished many things remains the source of our family's frustrations."

Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino said the family maintained that the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos had something to do with his brother's assassination.

"(Marcos) had a say if my brother would have access to a radio or a newspaper. Definitely, he had to have a say if Ninoy would be killed," the lawmaker said.

Inspiration

"In life, what Ninoy gave to the people was already greater than freedom. He inspired us to fight for it," the President said in her statement.

"He inspired us to be tough in struggle, even in despair and isolation, to be loyal to principles, and to a high vision," she added.

The President also said Ninoy's "supreme sacrifice" should now inspire the nation to fight against poverty, crime, terrorism and corruption.

"Let us all be vigilant for the rule of law and decency," she said, adding:

"This is what we learned from his martyrdom: We must never let terror and injustice rule our lives again. We must safeguard our democracy and never allow the ascendancy of dictatorship." ***With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

WHERE the dawn of a new day began: at the tarmac of the Manila International Airport with its enduring reminders, a China airliner jet, a service stairway. ROGER MARGALLO

REMEMBERING her husband, former President Aquino says it is time to set aside differences and work together to achieve his dream for the country. EDWIN BACASMAS

NEAR and yet so far: President Macapagal and former DepEd Secretary Raul Roco separated only by former President Cory Aquino and Gina de Venecia at the Manila Memorial Park. EDWIN BACASMAS

Cory: Get real, Kris

From page A1

started a romance with Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, former President Corazon Aquino yesterday expressed distaste for the relationship that has gripped the nation like a *telenovela*.

"I would like to think that in our 28 years together, I made Ninoy a better person and I, him," Ms Aquino said in a short speech she delivered toward the end of the ceremony held to mark the 19th death anniversary of her slain husband, Benigno Aquino Jr. "That is what I have been telling Kris—that you find someone who would make you a better person and you, him."

Later acknowledging her mother's concern. Kris said: "There are times that you would be blinded by love. My mom has a clearer vision."

Kris arrived Tuesday from Los Angeles, where she took a weeklong break from the controversy generated by her romance with Marquez.

Shortly before she flew out, she announced teary-eyed on TV that her mother had written her a letter containing a declaration of unconditional love as well as a warning that she should not test the former President's patience.

Kris arrived at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City a few minutes late for the ceremony that started at 10 a.m. She took a seat outside the shade of the tent and chatted with a friend.

But she went to kiss her mother before taking off.

The Aquinos are opposed to Kris' relationship with the 42-year-old Marquez, who is seeking the annulment of his marriage to actress Alma Moreno.

In an interview last night with GMA-7's Frontpage, the mayor said he and Kris had parted.

"It's better *siguro na* we go our separate ways *para masiyahan naman ang mga tao* (to please the public)," he said.

Insulted

Marquez's spokesperson Mar Jimenez told the INQUIRER earlier yesterday that he was "deeply hurt, if not insulted," by the Aquinos' position that he should stay away from the memorial rites.

"In the first place, he never volunteered to attend," Jimenez said.

THE HERO'S daughter as show biz celebrity waves to her fans following memorial rites for her late father. AFP

But Kris' brother, Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III, had said this was "quite insensitive" of the Palace. The lawmaker was also quoted as saying that Marquez could only go as far as the cemetery gate if he wanted to be in the area.

The President, however, announced that there was no need for Marquez to attend the ceremony.

Asked to comment on this subplot upon her arrival from Los Angeles, Kris said of her boyfriend: "I know that he has *delicadeza* (moral sensitivity). I don't think he will show up at our family occasion."

But Jimenez said the Palace had not officially informed Marquez that he should welcome the President to yesterday's affair, even as a matter of protocol.

This was why the mayor was surprised when Ms Macapagal announced that she would not require his presence at the memorial park, Jimenez said.

But even if Kris had invited her boyfriend to attend, he would not have done so. "He knows that the affair is strictly private," Jimenez said.

No-win

Marquez's lawyer, Francisco Chavez, said he had advised the mayor not to show up at the ceremony.

"For one, it would be a no-win situation . . . It might offend the sensibilities of the Aquinos," said Chavez, a former solicitor general. "Two, he didn't usually attend the affair. So why would he go now?"

According to Jimenez, the only time Marquez was present at the annual ceremony was when he welcomed then President Fidel Ramos several years ago.

Jimenez said that while the Aquinos were at the memorial park, Marquez was in his office at the City Hall, a 10-minute drive away.

He said the mayor later visited key barangays where garbage had remained uncollected.

Some Parañaque residents are complaining that Marquez has neglected his waste management duties since his romance with the former President's' youngest child was made public.

At the memorial park, Kris was asked why she had positioned herself away from her family.

"Why?" she answered curtly. "It's because there are some people that I would not want to be seated with."

Nene to FVR . . .

From page A1

know the plotters before the act was done, it is impossible for him not to know after it was done," said Pimentel in a privilege speech.

Pimentel pointed out that Ramos "was not head of the most notorious armed group in the country at that time for nothing."

"He was not sporting the car plate 1081—to demonstrate his unconditional loyalty to Mr. Marcos and his unswerving support for Proclamation No. 1081, the Marcos edict placing the country under martial rule—for nothing," Pimentel said.

Pimentel recalled that opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Aquino's youngest sister, recounted to him an incident which happened just hours after martial law was declared and after her brother was arrested.

'Did not deserve to eat'

He said Oreta had gone to the office of the then PC chief, Ramos, to ask permission if she could bring some bread for her brother.

"According to (Oreta), (Ramos) curtly told her that her request was denied because 'he (Aquino) did not deserve to eat,'" Pimentel said.

Pimentel said that if Oreta's story was true, "it showed the utter absence of concern in the heart of Ramos toward those Mr. Marcos and he had considered enemies of martial rule."

"If what Senator Aquino-Oreta said is true, then it could be one reason why Mr. Ramos, as former chief of PC, had not fully informed the people about what he knew of the circumstances of Ninoy's murder," Pimentel said.

Pimentel added that "now that Mr. Marcos is gone, Gen. (Fabian) Ver is gone and Mrs. (Imelda) Marcos is advancing in years, Mr. Ramos would no longer have any reason to keep the truth about the Aquino assassination in pectore (close to his chest)."

President Ferdinand Marcos had chosen Ver as the Armed Forces chief of staff over Ramos. The latter became acting chief of staff while Ver went on leave during the Sandiganbayan trial of the accused in the Aquino murder led by Ver. Cleared by the court, Ver resumed his position.

"I suggest that he owes it to the Filipino people to come clean, tells us what he knows about the killing of Ninoy and identify who masterminded the murder," he said.

In another privilege speech, administration Rep. Joker Arroyo, who was Aquino's lawyer when he faced a court martial that convicted him to die by musketry, said, "Senator Aquino created events, events did not create him, the true measure of a great man."

Sins of the father

In the House of Representatives, the Marcos daughter, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, said she found no "clear reasons" for the Marcos family to apologize and that she had no "special information" on whether her late father ordered the killing of Aquino.

"It is curious that what are perceived to be sins of the father should be visited on the daughters, the sons, the grandchildren and so on. I am not clear what it means," she said.

Marcos was besieged by reporters when she attended the budget presentation yesterday at the office of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

Marcos said the assassination of Aquino, her father's paramount political enemy, "changed the course of events in Philippine history."

But she complained why she was being hounded by questions about the Aquino murder.

"I have no special information, no unique insight on that crime," she said.

"I don't like this question. I don't get it," Marcos, smiling but visibly irked, said when reporters asked her comment on Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III's demand on the Marcos family to apologize to the Filipinos.

"I have no problem apologizing to anyone if there is reason to say sorry. I am still unclear as to what that apology refers to," she said.

She said: "History will judge and I do not want to be sucked into a debate whose rules I am not aware of."

Responding to a TV reporter's question whether she felt it was time to confront the issue of the Aquino murder instead of dancing around it, she retorted: "I have never danced around any issue."

Senate row . . .

From page A1

Net approval rating is the difference between those who approved and disapproved of a senator's performance. The survey, which covered 1,200 respondents, has a 95 percent level of confidence and a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

Five other opposition senators, including now Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, also saw their net approval ratings plunge.

The net approval rating of Sen. John Osmeña, whose defection to the opposition on June 3 triggered the Senate coup, and of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel dropped 7 percentage points.

Osmeña's rating slipped from 43 percent to 36, and Pimentel from 60 to 53.

Osmeña's defection gave the opposition 12 senators and the administration, also 12 senators.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's net approval rating was down 6 percentage points (52 to 46), while those of Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Ople suffered a drop of 4 points.

Curiously, Majority Floor Leader Loren Legarda's net approval rating fell by 3 percentage points to 68 percent.

At the height of the Senate deadlock, Legarda was rumored to have been planning to join the opposition in preparation for the 2004 presidential election.

For not leaving the administration, Revilla's net approving rating rose 14 percentage points from 24 percent in April to 38 in July.

Senators Ralph Recto and Manuel Villar's ratings were also up by 9 percentage and 8 percentage respectively.

Jaworski's net approval rating rose 5 percentage points to 18 percent.

As a whole, the Senate's net approval rating dropped from 34 percent in April to 31 in July.

Considering the survey's margin of error, the Senate's approval rating remained steady. It was 48 percent in April and 49 in July.

Asked about the "effect of the situation of the Senate disagreement on one's regard for the Senate," 53 percent of the respondents said it "w ned or decreased" while rcent said their regard for the hamber did not change. Only 4 per nt answered in the affirmative.

Reformist bloc agonizes over GMA 'dilemma'

From page A1

She labors this point because she wants to make the limits of her comments clear. It quickly becomes obvious why.

"My fear is, it is the 2004 (plan) that becomes the dominant factor (in the Macapagal administration)," Abad says. "But it should not be the only focus, the main factor, that shapes the things that you have to do."

She is not the only one who feels this way. The soul-searching sessions that have been held in the past several weeks have been drawn precisely against this background: that in the internal struggle for direction inside the administration, it is the group charged with winning in 2004 that has gained the upper hand.

Internal debate

Former Constitutional Commissioner Chito Gascon, who is with the government peace panel negotiating with the National Democratic Front, summarizes the internal debate. Is Mike Arroyo the "Achilles' heel" of the President, or does he have her "tacit approval?" Gascon is referring, of course, to the oft-mentioned involvement of the First Gentleman in the President's election plans.

"There really is a dilemma. Does the President know (that the reformist bloc that helped put her in power is agonizing over this internal struggle)? Does she really care? We don't know," Gascon says. No one in civil society, as far as can be told, doubts that preparations for 2004 are a necessity. The issue is only whether election politics will dictate policy.

Third Force as beacon

No one in civil society also doubts that the President works hard, or is struggling to juggle the demands of her many constituencies.

Urban poor advocate and now Malacañng official Percy Chavez describes what is already a familiar image of the President. "She's really hands-on. Fantastic. That's because she's been a teacher. She remembers all the homework and assignments."

Abad points out a crucial difference. "You have a President who still respects and listens to people who advocate change. *Kahit paano, nakikinig pa rin siya* (When you come down to it, she still listens). Give her the benefit of the doubt."

And yet, the 2004 factor continues to worry many. Abad sums up the issue succinctly. "What we're really up against is this entire culture of political patronage." She adds: "I think that is what the people expect from the President, to strike a balance (between the demands of politics as usual and the reformist agenda). But somehow she's caught up with her own agenda of 2004."

That is why "many of us are arguing the need for a third force," Gascon says, "not really to challenge, but to serve as a beacon."

Back to Ninoy

Civil society groups (all of the sources say they are dissatisfied with how the term has been narrowed down to its Edsa II meaning) may not yet be able to elect a president, but they are quite capable of unseating one.

"They have the capacity to mobilize and generate public support for certain issues, but have not yet been able to translate this into votes," says Kompil secretary general Bobit Librojo. What happens when the administration that civil society is engaged with begins to make decisions on the basis of votes rather than development or reform?

Abad defines the stakes. "Outside of government, what can be done?" she asks. "Very little. Then we go back to doing our own thing. Then everything we do will be very micro."

"Government bureaucracy is very intricate," Chavez says. "But you can also be very creative. That's the challenge.

If anything, everyone in civil society talks the same language: there is "tension" in working in and with government, there are specific "challenges," and there are "creative" ways to meet them.

Abad cautions against externalizing the problem. "We always see the problem outside of us, we always see the enemy outside of us," she says.

Maybe, she adds, "Aug. 21 is a good way to confront ourselves: how we should proceed (on) the path of change, the path to a better life. I think we should relive the pain—that something as horrible as this could happen. At the same time, cure the pain. Ask ourselves: 'Are we really worth dying for?'"

At a time of "Filipino-bashing," she says, we should ask ourselves the question (Ninoy) Aquino asked and answered in dramatic fashion. "What is our real worth?"

The way of Ninoy

A member of Generation Text—born, say, in 1976—would have reached the age of reason the year Ninoy Aquino died. It is difficult now, 19 years later, to imagine the turmoil that overwhelmed the country after the assassination, when at times it seemed as if reason itself had taken flight.

But it is even more difficult to imagine that a thousand days of protest did eventually oust Ferdinand Marcos—without a single text message being sent. The cell phone that hounded Joseph Estrada out of office had yet to be invented.

In 1983, the messaging system was primitive (people in the millions lined up for hours to view the leader's battered remains), but the message was simple and universal and repeated over and over like a prayer: "The Filipino is worth dying for."

"It's always a death in the family that brings a family together," says Abad. "That was the way with Ninoy." Abad was nursing a month-old son at the time she heard the terrible news. "That same night, we went to visit." (The body was first waked at Aquino's residence in Quezon City.) But it was only when she saw "the long lines" that wound round Times Street like an unraveled yellow ribbon that she began to realize that grief over the assassination was not only personal but national.

At least two million people turned out for the Aug. 31 funeral—the second largest in history, after Mahatma Gandhi's.

Librojo remembers the assassination for the life it breathed into the Marcos opposition. "Aug. 21 was a landmark because in 1981 to 1983 we (the social democrats) were in disarray," says Librojo, now Kompil secretary general. "At the wake we could already see it was different. *Bihira sa mga rally ang walk-ins* (It was rare for protest rallies to attract the non-organized). It was 1978 all over again." In 1978, an Aquino-led [illegible] created in the Interim Batasan Pambansa elections, but only after a wildly successful "noise barrage" famously shook Malacañang to its foundations.

First light

"Aug. 21 was a turning point," says former Constitutional Commissioner Gascon. "It was the assassination that pushed me to become politically active."

As he would be the first to admit, he was not alone. "There are so many of them (people whose lives were changed by the assassination, who became politicized because of it)," says Gascon. "Literally thousands. Community organizers. Politicians who are non-traditional."

None of this is to say that the pro-democracy movement began only on that fateful Sunday in 1983. Many, to borrow Rizal's rich prose, had already died without seeing the dawn. But the Aquino assassination was first light.

"He explicitly symbolized the incremental and reformist struggle, the way of active non-violence," says Gascon. Reflecting on Aquino's final statement, he says: "The Filipino is worth dying for. Now that's a statement about all of Filipino culture."

Edsa II difference

Recalling those heady days, Chavez says: "Even Edsa II pales in comparison."

The difference is not merely generational, or technological. Many of those who swam in the mainstream of anti-Marcos protests—those who might be called Aquino's true heirs—would have nothing to do with government, once dry ground had been reached. Today, prompted in no small part by Aquino's example, his political heirs in so-called civil society are working with government, or even knee-deep in it.

Chavez, for instance, was appointed chair of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor a month after President Macapagal Arroyo took office. Gascon was drafted to join the government peace panel, together with Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel. Most prominently, Kompil stalwarts Vicky Garchitorena, Dinky Soliman and Ging Deles were appointed to the Cabinet. (Since she resigned as chief of the Presidential Management Staff, Garchitorena remains a Palace consultant.) There are many other members of the anti-Estrada movement who work with the Macapagal administration, in varying degrees of cooperation.

Sometimes, the work is completely unexpected. Teddy Lopez of Kompil found himself appointed as member of the Film Ratings Board, which mercifully "phased itself out," he says. He cannot think of any reason for his unsolicited appointment, except maybe "because I was in the media committee of Kompil!"

Such, apparently, is the price of maturing coalition politics.

"I think we have a better appreciation (now) of where we can engage other forces," Lopez says.

"More people are conscious now that the approach to government is engagement, in the sense that we have a development agenda," Librojo says. They are referring both to their allies who are in government, and to those groups outside it.

"After Edsa I, the moorings that connected us to those in government quickly went adrift. Maybe in one and a half years."

Now, Librojo says, the social development groups are more conscious of the "agenda" and "constituency" that they are accountable to.

In Cory Aquino's time, Chavez says, "there were no precedents, no insights and learnings" from working in government. But now, "our moves are more learned, more savvy, they have more direction. Before, they used to be all fervor and nothing more."

"The strategies for advocacy, for change, are more mature now," Abad agrees. "We support and nurture the relations" between civil society members in government and the groups that brought them there in the first place, she adds.

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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Record-chasing La Salle seeks 9th straight vs UST

STANDINGS	W	L		W	L
La Salle	8	0	Adamson	3	5
UE	6	2	UP	3	5
UST	5	3	FEU	3	5
Ateneo	4	4	NU	0	8

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Coliseum)*
1:30 p.m.—NU vs Adamson
3:30 p.m.—UST vs La Salle

By Dennis U. Eroa

STILL cautious after eight straight wins, La Salle meets University of Santo Tomas today in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"This is going to a big game for us. UST is a veteran and we cannot afford to lower our guard," said La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren. The Green Archers downed the Tigers, 81-76, in the first round.

The 4 p.m. encounter will be preceded by the 1:30 p.m. clash between National University and Adamson.

La Salle has left a swath of destruction in the league with Adamson as its latest victim, 91-64. It's been beating opponents with big finishing kicks backed by a deadly half-court set.

The return of BJ Manalo has added teeth to the Archers' fluid offense and with the improved plays of Junjun Cabatu, Mika Vainio and Tyrone Tang, the Growling Tigers are expected to find the going rough.

A UST victory would give the Growling Tigers the big boost in their bid to barge into the Final 4 while becoming the first team to inflict La Salle's first defeat.

The Tigers own the league record of 14 straight wins set in 1993 under coach Aric del Rosario.

"La Salle is La Salle. We need to play intense basketball right from tipoff to have a chance," said Del Rosario.

The Tigers last beat the Archers in 1999, during Game One of their best-of-three championship series at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The backcourt duo of Mike Cortez and Aldrin Cardona has been La Salle's most potent weapon.

Consistent in providing them backup are Joseph "Ninja" Yeo and Willy Wilson, among others.

UST slotman Alwyn Espiritu, Mike Naningga, Iago Raterta and Rene de Guzman will have to step if they wish to contain Carlo Sharma and Adonis Sta. Maria, La Salle's double-barrelled in the middle.

Del Rosario will lean on the talents of Christian Luanzon, Jimino Manansala and Glenn Maching in containing Cortez and Cardona.

NU is still winless after eight games. But the Bulldogs are very much capable of scoring a surprise. Most of NU's losses were cliffhangers and Adamson (3-5) should play consistently in order to avoid defeat.

Fernandez chosen first alternate

By June Navarro

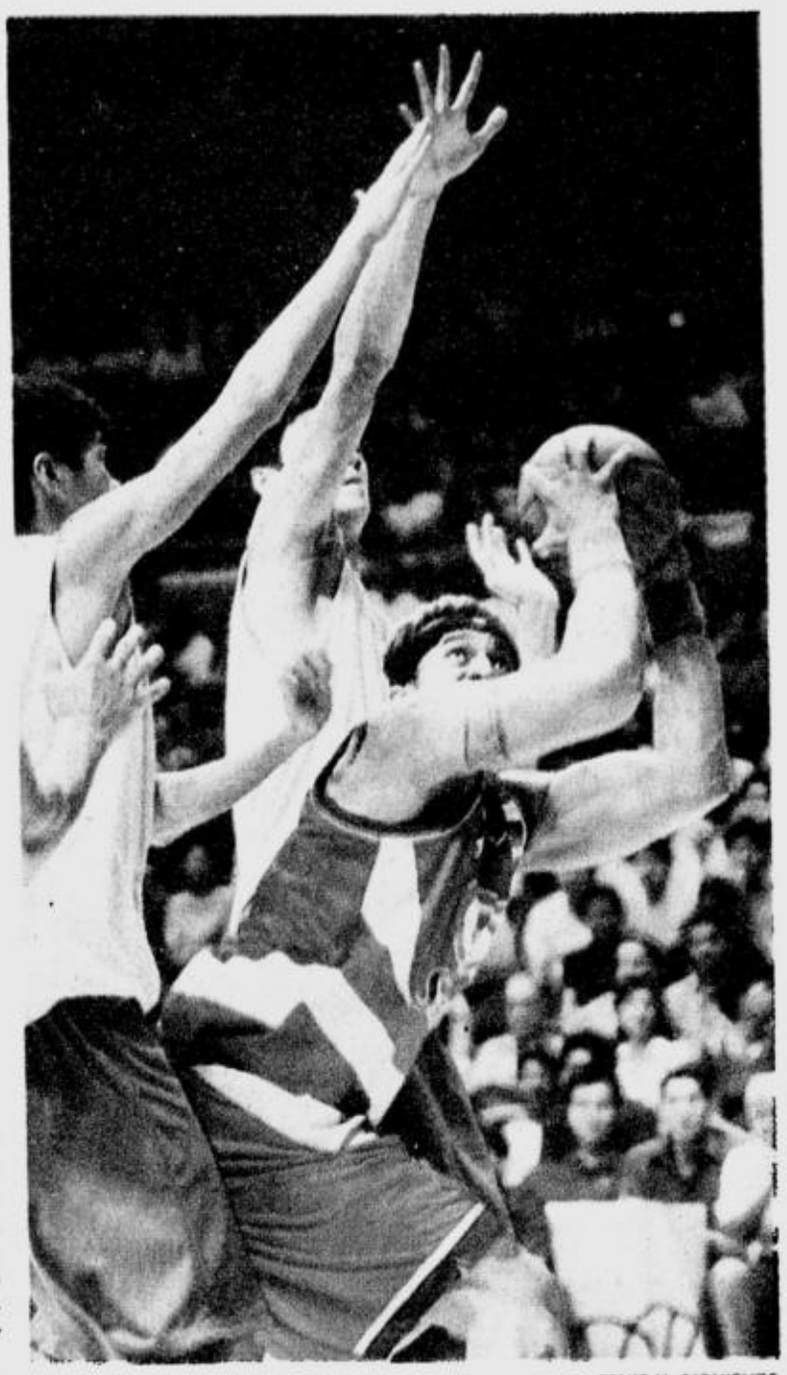
BOYET Fernandez of Purefoods and Shell's Chris Jackson are definitely out of the RP basketball team's Magic 12 who will see action in the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea next month.

Fernandez, a 5-foot-9 playmaker known for his deadly touch in the three-point area, has confirmed that he would no longer form the nucleus of the national squad and instead serve as an alternate in the quadrennial meet.

Fernandez said RP head coach Jong Uichico notified him of his status before the Selecta-RP-Chinese Taipei tune-up game Tuesday night.

Jackson, a many-time winner of the coveted PBA Press Corps Defensive Player of the Year award, was also shelved in the reserve list of the national team, a highly reliable source told the INQUIRER.

Judging from the way Uichico rotated his men in the Commissioner's Cup, Mick Pennisi will most likely join Jackson and Fernandez at the sidelines as they have the least number of minutes played in the conference.



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

ASI Taulava of the RP-Selecta Team (with ball) typifies his defiance against Chinese-Taipei's determined defense in this bit of action on Tuesday night at the Araneta Coliseum. Taulava topscored with 22 points in powering the RP-Selecta team to victory, 95-59.

On to Shanghai for UV, UST quintets

UNIVERSITY of Visayas and University of Sto. Tomas beat their respective rivals over the weekend in Cebu to advance to the adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 in Shanghai, China.

UV leaned on MVP Joseph Quinahan to defeat Ateneo de Davao, 17-8, while UST's Tigresses downed Polytechnic University of the Philippines, 17-14, behind the heroics of Most Valuable Player MVP Irene Cahilig.

"Our congratulations to the champions of this year's adidas Streetball Challenge. They all deserved the win," said Johan Alonte, president and managing director of adidas Philippines.

Alonte was on hand to award the trophies, medals and prizes to the winners. Joining him were fellow adidas officials marketing director Angelica Suiza, sports marketing manager Goody Custodio and assistant marketing services manager Odette Velarde. Also present at the event was Purefoods star and adidas athlete Rey Evangelista.

In the exciting Midgets division, burly center Vince Fran scored the crucial basket with only 17.8 seconds left as the La Salle Greenhills Greenies of NCR hung on to win over Ateneo de Davao, 11-10, in the finals.

RP-Singapore billiards tussle at Robinsons

MANY-TIME champion Rubilen Amit and Johanna Dee are expected to lead Filipino women billiards players when they square off with Singapore's best in the "Singapore-RP Women's Cue Challenge" this weekend at the Orosa Atrium of Robinsons Place Manila.

"This is going to be our first international assignment but we will give it our best shot," Rubilen and Johanna said of the event set on Aug. 24-25.

Ms Amit has 16 titles to her name, including the PBAM Millennium Class A event in 1999 and the BOAM 9-ball Invitational this year while Ms Dee has ruled several Class B competition staged by PBAM, both in 8-ball and 9-ball.

Other members of the RP team coached by Boyet Asonto are Sheila dela Cruz, Magda Say, Nina Angeles and Iris Ranola.

The Singaporeans will be bannered by Amy Hoe, Charlene Chai, Eunice Tang, Jef Tan, Ong Chew Hoon and Ho Feng Xia, all veteran campaigners in local and international events.

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SSC- Stags enter Final 4

GAMES TOMORROW *(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)*
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs San Beda (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs UPHR (srs/jrs)

By June Navarro

SAN Sebastian sneaked past College of St. Benilde, 70-67, to earn a Final Four seat yesterday and grab a piece of the leadership in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Stags (9-2) tied their victims atop the leaderboard and bounced back from a 74-72 setback against the Blazers in the first round.

Christian Coronel scored seven of the defending champions' last 11 points while the rest of the Stags pooled their resources together in dousing the Blazers' fiery stand at crunchtime.

Earlier, Joel Villarin pulled off a defensive gem and carried Jose Rizal University to a 94-91 win over Philippine Christian University with a three-pointer in the dying seconds.

The Heavy Bombers moved a win away from earning a playoff berth in the Final Four and tied the Dolphins at 7-4.

Second Game (Srs)

SSC 70—Coronel 14, Alfad 14, Falcasantos 12, Najorda 12, Moore 6, Vicente 5, Uy 3, Gonzales 2, Reguerra 2, Legarde 0, Baluyot 0.

CSB 67—Magpayo 22, Salvacion 14, Capati 11, Sagad 6, Perlas 5, Mendoza 4, Coching 3, Castro 2, Tolentino 0, V. Reyes 0, U. Reyes 0, Orbeta 0.

Quarters: 19-16, 40-28, 57-45, 70-67.

Pinoy bags Asian pencak gold medal

FILIPINO fighter Emmanuel Baesa bagged a gold medal in the tanding (fighting) category to lead the Philippine team's impressive showing in the recent 1st Asia Pacific pencak silat championships in Singapore.

Baesa topped the 60-65 kilogram category, beating campaigners from 11 other countries, including eventual overall champion Vietnam.

The Filipinos also won four silver and three bronze medals, according to Philippine Pencak Silat Association president Sultan Jamalul Kiram III.

The silver winners were Emma Tianchon, 50-55 kg., tanding; Abdulkarim Abad, men's solo, seni (artistic) category; Donabel Gelera, women's solo, seni; and Adzhar Abdurasad, Vivencio Donguez and Christopher Yabut, 5-55 kg, tanding; Edwin Simacon, 65-70 kg, tanding; and Mariel Dimla, 70-75 kg, tanding.

Other countries which had entries in the Asia Pacific championships are Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Korea, Australia, Japan, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand and Myanmar.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Yankees 7, Angels 5; Athletics 6, Indians 3; Tigers 6, Mariners 3; Orioles 7, Devil Rays 4; Twins 5, White Sox 0; Royals 6, Blue Jays 5, 12 innings; Rangers 3, Red Sox 2, 10 innings.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pirates 8, Cardinals 0; Rockies 8, Expos 6; Brewers 2, Phillies 1; Cubs 14, Astros 12; Padres 6, Braves 2; Diamondbacks 5, Reds 3; Giants 1, Mets 0; Marlins 6, Dodgers 3 AP

Selecta eyes sweep

By Roy Luarca

THE RP-SELECTA team has proven it can win big against Chinese-Taipei. Tonight, it aims to duplicate that feat.

With their masterful 95-59 drubbing of the Taiwanese on Tuesday, the Nationals look headed for a stroll when they wrap up their two-game tune-up series at 7 tonight at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

Led by Asi Taulava, Eric Menk and Danny Seigle, the Nationals are simply bigger, better and more-experienced than the Taiwanese, who have five teenagers in tow.

Having gotten the Taiwanese's number, the RP-Selecta coaching staff headed by Jong Uichico is expected to focus on fine-tuning their plays, especially their offensive patterns.

In Game One, the Nationals relied mostly on their individual talents and beefiness to run down the gangling Taiwanese, who are also preparing for the Busan Asian Games starting next month.

The 6-foot-9 Taulava wreaked havoc inside the paint with 22 points in Game One. He got ample help from Eric Menk and PBA MVP Danny Ildefonso with 15 and 14 points, respectively.

The Taiwanese, missing the services of star forward Hsin An Chen, who is trying out with the Sacramento Kings in the NBA, clearly don't have the strength and the capability to match up with the Nationals.

Aces complete semis cast

ALASKA completed the semifinal cast with an 82-67 runaway victory over Federal Express last night in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Philsports Arena. Meanwhile, Wynne Arboleda of FedEx was fined P20,000 and served a one-game suspension last night for a dangerous foul on Alaska's Ajani Williams during their quarterfinal match last Saturday.

Congress sets another inquiry

PHILIPPINE YOUTH coach Johnny Tam was unable to air his side, but his position was well expounded during the Congress inquiry yesterday on the team's failed bid in the recent Southeast Asia Basketball Association Men's Junior Championship in Kuala Lumpur.

Rep. Antonio M, Abaya, also the chair of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, BAP president Tiny Literal, legal counsel Bonifacio Alentajan and executive vice president Christian Tan took turns explaining the circumstances that led to the RP Youth's disqualification from the Asian Basketball Confederation Men's Junior Championship in December.

After hearing their sides, Rep. Monico Puentevella, chair of the House committee on youth and sports, set another inquiry. Puentevella also asked Tam, who steered the Philippine Young Men's team to the Asia Super League title 10 days ago, to submit his credentials.

Also present yesterday were Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain, PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad and Tommy Ong and former BAP officials Freddie Jalasco, Tito Tagle and Moying Martelino. ***Roy Luarca***

Siodina plays Fancl Pro-Am

FILIPINO Mario Siodina tees off today in the Pro-Am tournament of the Fancl Seniors Golf Classic at the Susono Country Club, a championship course near Mt. Fuji in the suburb of Tokyo.

Siodina is among 40 professionals invited to the tournament by K. Ikemori, president of the sponsoring Fancl (not Fanel as earlier reported). Fancl is one of Japan's biggest companies specializing in food and cosmetics products.

Tomorrow at 10 a.m., Siodina will tee off in the company of H. Inoue and K. Yoshimura, two of Japan's most famous senior players. Doing the caddy chores for Siodina is his Japanese buddy, H. Minami.

The tournament is the richest seniors event in Japan offering a total of $600,000. The winner pockets $150,000.

In 1999, Frankie Miñoza placed fourth in the Fancl Okinawa Open (men's regular). ***Al S. Mendoza***

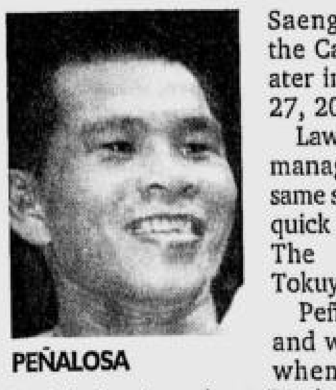
'Bata' Reyes topples American

EFREN "Bata" Reyes, fresh from his victory in the International Challenge of Champions in Connecticut, lived up to his new title "Champion of Champions" by beating American J. R. Calvert yesterday in the opening round of the Gabriel Las Vegas Invitational 9-ball tournament in Nevada.

Reyes defeated Calvert, 3-0, in a best-of-5 format. His Puyat Sports teammate Francisco "Django" Bustamante, winner of the Peninsula 9-Ball Open in Virginia two weeks back, plays his first match today against countryman Santos Sambajon, with Reyes battling American Keath McCready.

Peñalosa keeps WBC super-fly crown

By Roy Luarca


PEÑALOSA

GERRY Peñalosa won by technical knockout over challenger Seiji Tanaka of Japan in the seventh round to keep his World Boxing Council International super-flyweight crown Tuesday night at the Neil Blaisdel Arena in Honolulu, Hawaii.

More important, the victory lifted Peñalosa's morale for his scheduled return bout with WBC champion Masamori Tokuyama of Japan on Nov. 8 in Osaka, Japan. Tokuyama beat Peñalosa via unanimous decision in their first meeting last Sept. 24 in Yokohama, Japan.

It was Peñalosa's fourth defense of the WBC 115-pound crown since taking it via a sixth round technical knockout over Pone Saengmorakot of Thailand at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater in Parañaque City on May 27, 2000.

Lawyer Rudy Salud, Peñalosa's manager, said Tanaka has "the same style as Tokuyama, is just as quick and punches just as hard." The only difference was Tokuyama is a southpaw.

Peñalosa showed better form and was more aggressive than when he clinched the North American Boxing Federation super flyweight title via unanimous decision over Mexican Oscar Andrade last May 24 in a fight that disappointed Sauld.

Salud said he was "80 percent satisfied" with Peñalosa's performance against Takana, a stablemate of Tokuyama.

Tokuyama is expected to encounter little trouble in his title defense against Mexican Erick Lopez on Aug. 26 in Saitama, Japan.

Rodolfo Lledo, father-in-law of Peñalosa, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview that Peñalosa and Tanaka displayed excellent boxing skills in the first few rounds, but the more experienced Filipino landed the cleaner blows. Scorecards were not available at press time.

The hard-hitting Filipino improved to 46-4-2 win-loss-draw, with 31 by way of knockouts. Tanaka, a 25-year-old southpaw, dropped to 11-4-8 with 1KO.

The 30-year-old Peñalosa is scheduled to come home with his wife Goody within the week for a month long vacation before rejoining American trainer Freddie Roach at the Wild Card Boxing Club Gym in Hollywood, California, where he has been training since April 25.

The Peñalosa-Tanaka bout will be aired on tape on Aug. 25 from 10 p.m. to midnight over NBN-4. ***With a report from Rey Danseco***

RP pug wins, prevents North Korean sweep

PYONGYANG, North Korea—Middleweight Maraon Golez humbled his North Korean rival to prevent a 12-event sweep by the hosts and capture the lone gold for Team Caltex Philippines at the close of the Pyongyang International Boxing Invitational tournament here on Tuesday.

The 21-year-old Golez, an Armyman from Cebu City, proudly raised the Philippine flag during the awarding ceremony as local residents heard the "Lupang Hinirang" for the first time here.

Golez, the least experienced among the seven-man squad which became the first Filipino team to see action in this country, outslugged top Korean campaigner Kim Sun Kil right from the start of their four-round finals bout to pull off an impressive 12-6 victory.

"*Talagang pinagsikapan ko na manalo* (I really tried hard to win)," said Golez, who reached the gold medal bout by scoring the tournament's first and only abbreviated match at the expense of Korean No. 2 O Yong Su in the first round of their semifinal duel.

Frenchman stuns Pete

COMMACK, New York—Paul-Henri Mathieu, the last of the 48 players to get into the main draw, stunned Pete Sampras, 6-3, 6-7 (9), 6-4, in a second-round match at the TD Waterhouse Cup on Tuesday night.

The 20-year-old, a pro since 1999, originally was scheduled to play in the qualifier but was moved up when Thomas Enqvist withdrew because of an upper respiratory infection.

Earlier this year, Mathieu reached the fourth round of the French Open in his native Paris, losing to Andre Agassi after taking a 2-0 lead.

In New Haven, Connecticut, top-seeded Venus Williams maintained her perfect record in the Pilot Pen with a 6-2, 6-4 second-round victory over fellow American Meghann Shaughnessy.

Williams, the three-time defending champion, has won all 13 of her matches here and advanced to play qualifier Laura Granville in the quarterfinals.

Williams, tuning up to defend her U.S. Open title next week, breezed through the first set Tuesday in under 30 minutes, getting most of her powerful first serves in at over 100 mph (160 kph) and quickly tracking down any returns.

SPORTSWATCH

Philta Classic set

PLAYERS who wish to join the two-weekend Philta Classic IV age group tournament have until 12 noon today to register at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The tournament, scheduled Aug. 24-25 and Aug. 30-Sept. 1, will have competitions in the boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under divisions. Entry fee is P22 per event.

Abaya, Nebato shine

CAGAYAN DE ORO—Rodrigo S. Abaya and Shelder T. Nebato scored 7.0 points in as many games to rule their respective divisions in the north Mindanao regional eliminations of the 2002 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship. Abaya, a high school junior of the Kabasalan National Vocational School in Zamboanga Sibugay, clinched a six-game win streak with a 31-move victory in a Queen's Gambit Decline duel against Ateneo de Davao's Anthony A. Ong. Abaya earned the junior division's gold medal, P5,000 and a ticket to the November finals of the officially sanctioned National Chess Federation of the Philippines countrywide active chess tournament. In the kiddie section, 10-year-old Nebato of General Santos City took the gold, a finals slot, P4,000 top purse plus the "Atty. Art A. Borjal Award" worth P1,500.

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

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Race 2—1. Divine Diva 2. Modern Classic 3. Love and Kisses

Race 3—1. Kitana 2. Noble House 3. Cool Under Fire 4. Noah's Arc

Race 4—1. Cause of Our Joy 2. Hurry Love 3. Sarangani Dancer

Race 5—1. Silakbo 2. Rolex 3. Princess Jonnalyn

Race 6—1. Sun and Sea 2. Pampanga Queen 3. Music Express 4. Misty 5. Jay O Jay

Race 7—1. Assunta de Rio 2. Aringkingking 3. Three of Heart 4. King Ram 5. Magara

Race 8—1. Hot Number 2. Respect the Ace 3. Maharani 4. Winning Streak

Race 9—1. Bishop King 2. Loose Cannon 3. Zeus 4. Cherry Lane 5. Fearzam 6. Palachik

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

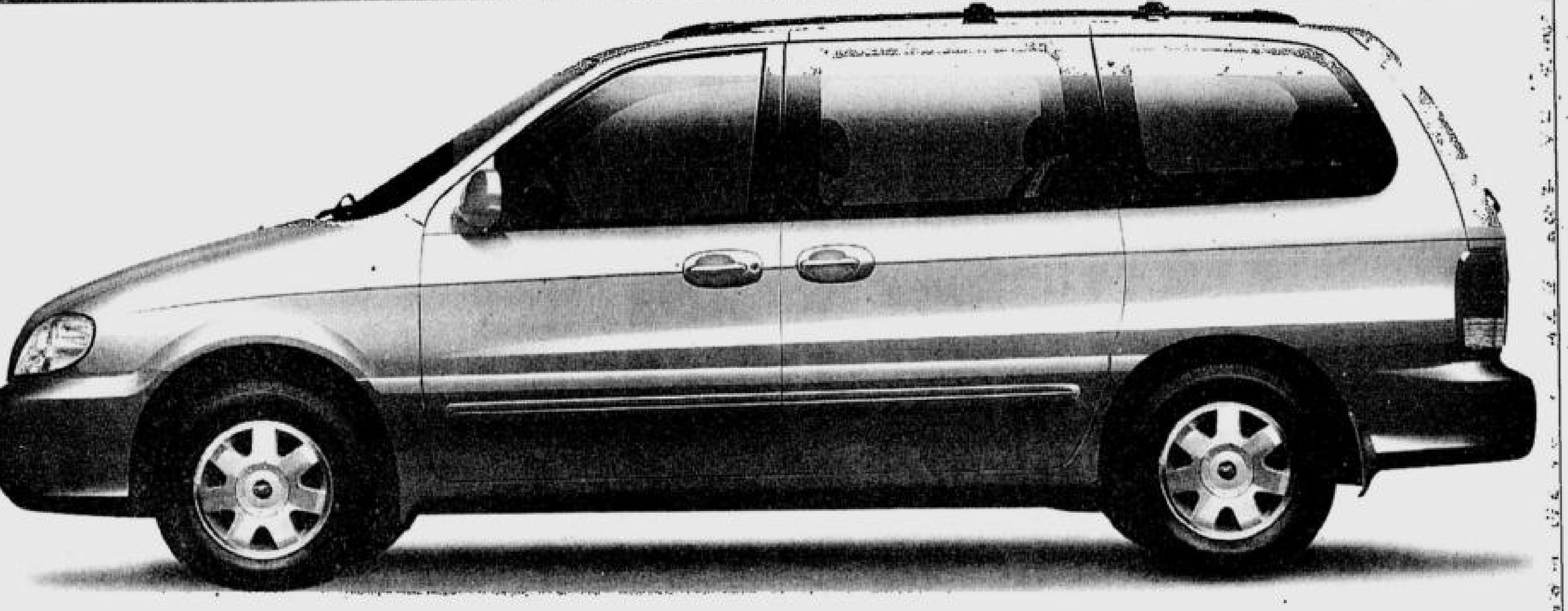
GOLF: U.S. Amateur Open Golf Championship, First Round at 1 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. (r), Preview at 7:30 p.m. (r) and Third Round tomorrow at 2 a.m. on ESPN

Senior PGA Tour Golf Ford Senior Players Championship, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r), Highlights at 11 p.m. on Star Sports

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Roy Vence clocked 2 hours, 30 minutes to retain his title in the 2nd Davao Marathon in Davao City. Also today in 1994, Nelson Mariano II beat Roland Perez in 42 moves of a Sicilian game to power UE to the team crown at the QC Sports Club.

2 WAYS TO OWN:



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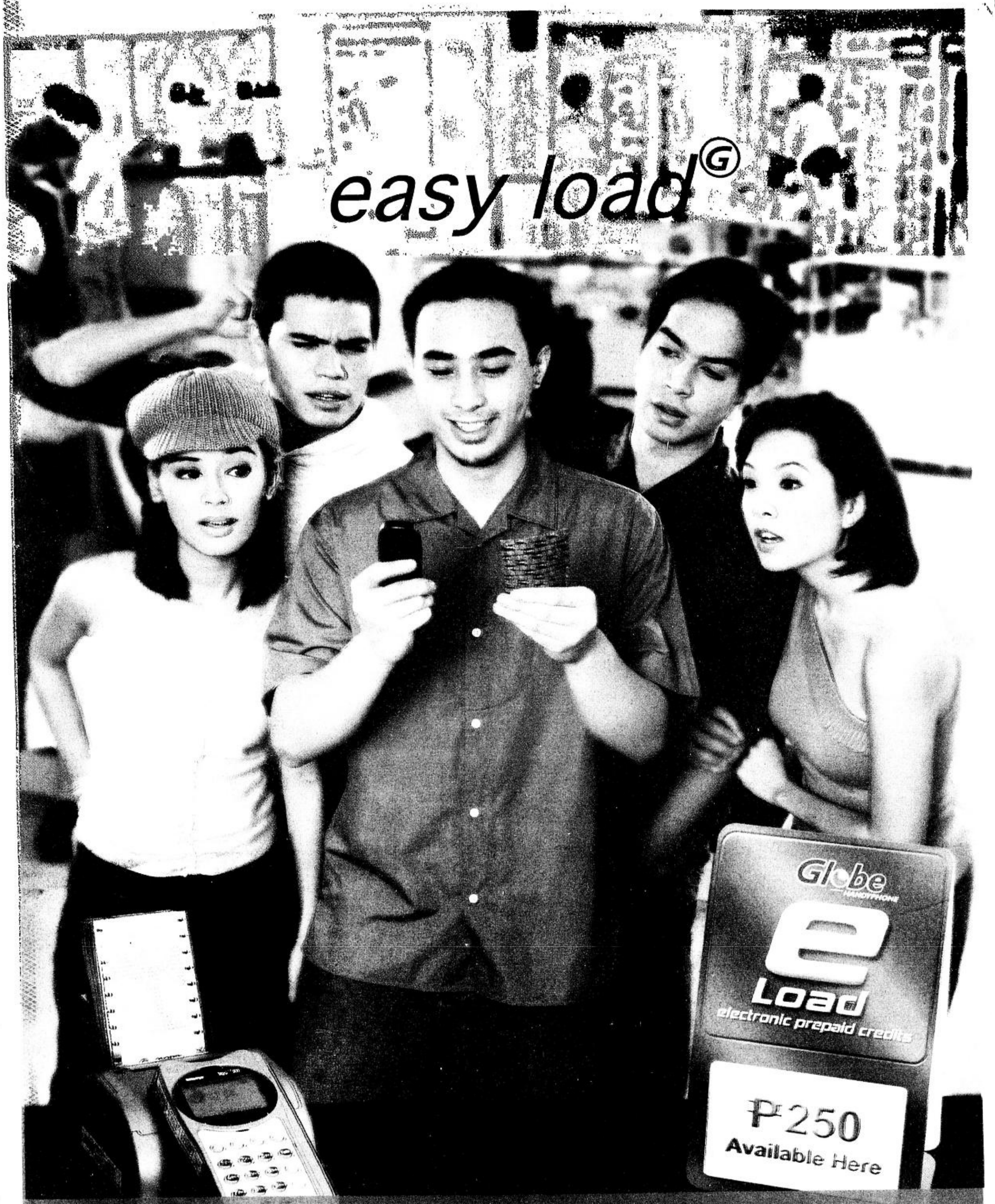

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1987, Series of 2002.

■ Unfair, cries Makati police chief /A18

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ ON TARGET: The meddling Catholic Church /A18

And now, Joey presents videotape

MARQUEZ

By Christian V. Esguerra

ASIDE from presenting four of his wife Alma Moreno's aides as well as plane tickets and hotel bills to prove that she was having an affair with another man, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez also has a videotape that would bolster his allegation, according to his lawyer.

Former solicitor general Frank Chavez said the videotape in their possession shows Moreno, 43, with her alleged lover, Julian Say, 31, during a Parañaque festival last year.

"Julian was even wearing a promotional distributed by the mayor during the festival," Chavez told the INQUIRER. "It was an insult to Joey."

He said the footage would clearly disprove Moreno's consistent denial that she had any relationship with Say, a disc jockey based in Cebu.

The INQUIRER yesterday sought the comment of Moreno's spokesperson Nene Riego but she refused to say anything.

Last Tuesday, Marquez submitted a revised petition for annulment after the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) opposed his first petition.

The OSG reportedly said in its opposition that Marquez and Moreno had slept in their conjugal home on June 30 and July 1, long after they had separated and after Kris Aquino had become the mayor's girlfriend.

Chavez yesterday dismissed the supposed incidents as "pure lie."

"She (Moreno) just went to visit the children," the lawyer said. "There was no carnal act. She's just making it up."

The court has given Moreno 15 days to submit her response to her husband's strongly worded amended petition.

Chavez said he and Marquez are preparing what they called damaging evidence that should convince a Parañaque regional trial court to grant the mayor's request to have his 12-year marriage to Moreno dissolved.

In his 15-page petition, the mayor urged Judge Helen Ricafort to dissolve his marriage, saying Moreno is psychologically incapable of performing her marital obligations.

He said that besides her alleged affair with Say, Moreno has been indifferent to him and their children and often tried to avoid family.

Chavez had also said Moreno emptied a savings account containing P1 million and spent US$11,000 in one shopping spree using Marquez's credit card.

Marquez is asking the court to grant him custody of their children—Yeoj, Win-Win, VJ, and Em-Em.

He is also seeking at least P1 million in moral damages and lawyer's fees from Moreno.

Aquino, daughter of former President Corazon Aquino, last week flew to the US to take "a break" after Moreno had confronted her in a hospital in Muntinlupa.

Aquino returned early Tuesday morning.

In the TV talk show "The Buzz" that she co-hosts with Boy Abunda, Aquino earlier this month had admitted that Marquez was her boyfriend.

She said their relationship started after she interviewed him about the breakup of his marriage earlier this year.

50 arrested since Bulaong took over

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE WESTERN Police District has arrested 50 robbers and snatchers since its new director took over three weeks ago.

Among those arrested were notorious snatchers preying on students of St. Paul College Manila, police said.

Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong, the new WPD director, presented the suspects to the media yesterday at the WPD headqaurters.

He was joined by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Chief Supt. Reynaldo Velasco, National Capital Region Police Office.

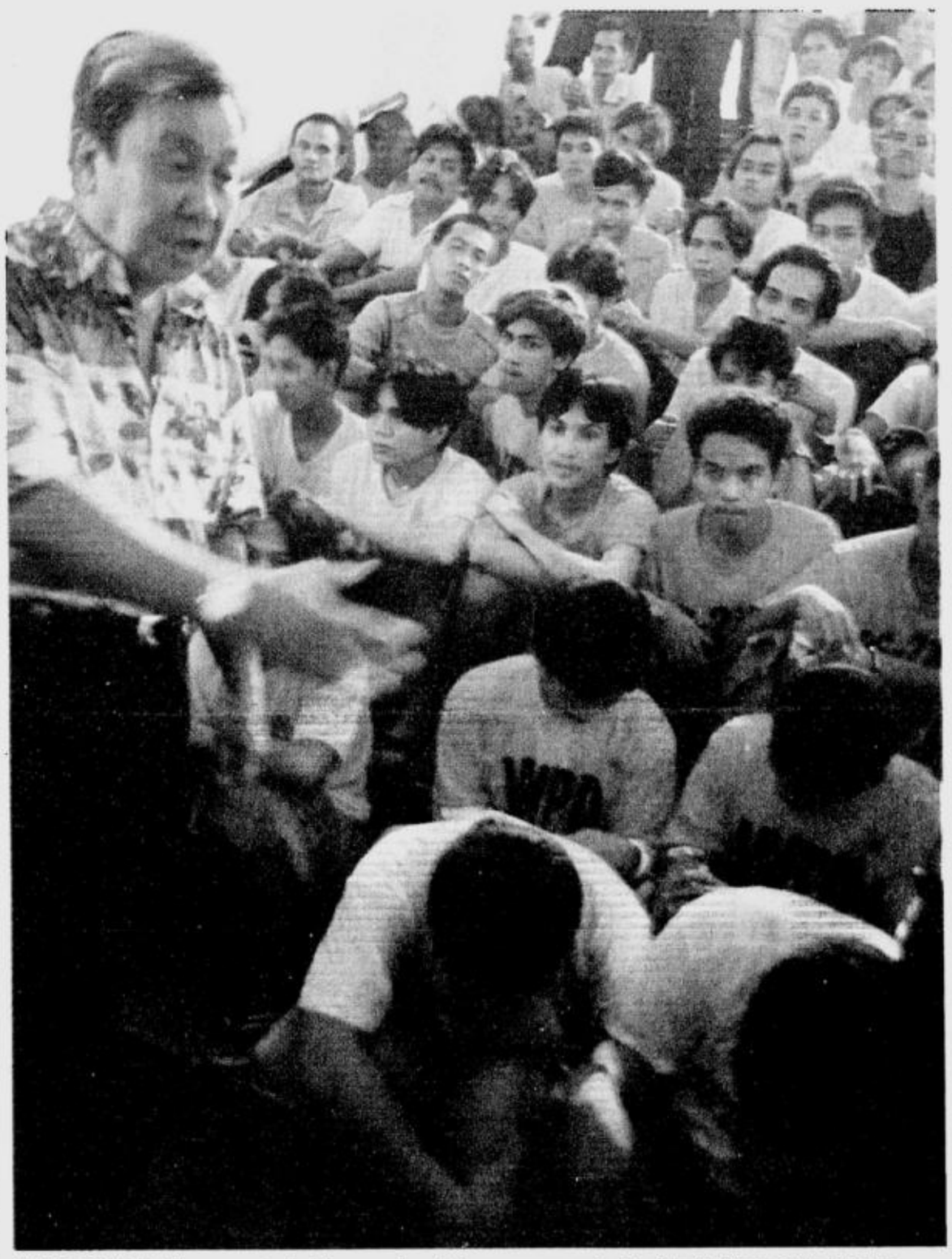
"This reinvigorated anti-crime program is in response to the needs of our communities, especially those near schools and commercial centers that have been incessantly pestered by these notorious street gangsters," Bulaong said.

He said the arrested suspects operated in Sta. Mesa, Legarda, Pandacan, Paco, Tondo, Divisoria, Quiapo, Sampaloc, Sta. Ana, and Blumentritt.

Last Thursday, students and teachers of St. Paul Manila held a mammoth rally to protest the crimes being committed near the school.

The following day, a 20-year-old *kikiam* vendor was "salvaged" or summarily executed and his body was dumped in front of St. Paul Manila. He had been strangled.

Yesterday, Bulaong presented seven alleged robbers preying on St. Paul students. They were identified as Benito A. Agustin, Iluminado A. Sabela, Romy R. Tagupa, Percival G. Santos, Arwin B. de la Cruz, Gilbert Z. Santos, and Roque B. Batersal.



HEAD COUNT. The suspected robbers and snatchers are presented to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. ERIK ARAZAS

Caloocan nearly bankrupt, says Malonzo ex-ally

By Tina Santos

ERICE

THE CALOOCAN City government is on the brink of bankruptcy due to the reckless and wasteful spending by the Malonzo administration, which now has about P1 billion in debt, according to Caloocan City District II Rep. Edgar Erice.

The former ally of Mayor Rey Malonzo denounced-- what he called the city administrations's mismanagement of funds and "questionable deals left and right" that left the city government burdened with huge debts and obligations.

The Inquirer tried to reach Malonzo but was told he is on a 10-day official visit to China.

City administrator Mamerto Manahan called Erice's allegations "absurd and inaccurate."

"Caloocan is heavily indebted but the wasteful spending continues with impunity," Erice said. "If these officials continue to engage in unnecessary spending, sooner or later, they will wake up with nothing."

Erice also urged the Commission on Audit (COA) to immediately investigate the allegedly anomalous disbursement of some P244 million reportedly uncovered in a recent audit conducted by a special task force of the commission.

The COA had earlier called for the creation of a fact-finding committee to dig deeper into the findings of the task force.

Saying the COA report was "99 percent true," Erice said the looming financial crisis in the city government is all because of the Malonzo administration's "spending, procedural irregularities and outright corruption."

"City Hall officials who are behind the anomaly should be prosecuted," Erice said.

COA documents show that a total of P244,534,493 was disbursed by the Malonzo administration from the year 2000 to 2001 in gross violation of existing laws and policies.

The report said all the documents pertaining to the allegedly questionable disbursements were traced to Francisco Veza, secretary to the mayor.

Veza allegedly approved the vouchers and purchase orders, the abstract of bids and resolutions of the committee on awards and purchase requests on behalf of Malonzo.

Among the other findings of the task force were the participation of allegedly fictitious business establishments in the bidding for supplies, materials and equipment.

Erice also cited the case of the P620 million which the local government allegedly borrowed from various banks for the construction of a city hospital, a public market and a parking building which he said have all remained unfinished.

He accused the city government of failing to remit to the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Government Service and Insurance System contributions that have already reached P100 million, and failing to pay salaries amounting to P20 million for job orders and consultants.

Manahan, the mayor's secretary, said in a statement: "The Caloocan City government has been paying its obligations. He (Erice) knows that. His wrongful accusations will all boomerang.

"We have been remitting our contributions to the BIR and the GSIS," Manahan explained. "Our job orders salaries have been late because the contract renewal is still being processed, but the salaries will be retroactive."

Small firms can use depot for now

By Jerome Aning

DESPITE AN ordinance closing down the Pandacan fuel depot, the Manila city government will entertain appeals from other small oil firms that seek temporary licenses to operate in the complex.

But the permits will be limited to the emptying of the remaining fuel stored in tanks in the area covered by the ordinance, according to City Legal Officer Melchor Monsod.

"The permits will still be in the spirit and intent of the ordinance which (aims to) secure Pandacan residents from the potential hazards posed by the remaing fuel stored in the tanks," Monsod said in an interview.

He said appeals from small oil firms would be approved on a case-to-case basis. The companies would have to specify the exact volume of fuel that they would take out and the estimated time needed for the transfer.

City Hall earlier gave 90-day permits to Jetti Supply Distribution Inc. and Philippine Prosperity Chemicals Inc., whose tanks still contain at least six million liters of fuel oil.

Jetti is one of the eight users of the Nagtahan Terminals Inc. on Beata Street in Pandacan.

Starved, locked up over pants

By Alcuin Papa

HER HUSBAND locked her up in a room and did not give her any food for a whole day just because she failed to wash his pants. But Monday night, Joana Jerosa, 22, decided that she had had enough. She escaped the hell that was her own home and went to the Central Police District Police Station 7 in Cubao, Quezon City.

She said her husband Rosendo Jerosa, 24, a security guard of Camp Security Agency, punched her Monday morning after she failed to wash the pants that he was supposed to wear to work.

He also locked her up in one of the rooms of their house in Cubao and refused to give her any food. She said that when Rosendo came home at about 9 p.m. that night, she was very hungry and she asked him for money for food.

Instead, Rosendo beat her up, she said.

Cubao policemen arrested Rosendo. He said he got fed up when she started to nag him when he came home.

Malabon mayor's son accused of beating cop

A SON of Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio was accused of beating up a police officer early Tuesday morning in Caloocan City.

Police identified the victim as Chief Supt. Ricardo Fidelino, 42, assigned to the Batangas police and a resident of Pio Valenzuela Street, Caloocan City.

Fidelino filed a complaint before the Caloocan police headquarters against Ariel Vicencio, the mayor's son, and his friend Michael Yap.

Fidelino said the incident happened at about 4 a.m. Tuesday in front of the Caesar Videoke Restaurant on Caimito Road in Caloocan. He said he was standing in front of the restaurant waiting for a newspaper boy when the group of Vicencio and Yap arrived on board a black car.

Fidelino said he just glanced at the two men. But the two men later accused him of giving them piercing looks.

The policeman said he introduced himself as a police officer and even showed them his police ID and badge but they ignored him. Instead, Vicencio and Yap punched him in the face several times, Fidelino claimed.

He said Vicencio and Yap fled when barangay watchmen arrived. The two men returned moments later looking for the policeman, this time armed with an automatic rifle and a shotgun. But Fidelino had left.

Vicencio's mayor father is facing graft charges before the Sandiganbayan. Tina Santos

Councilor wants hotel sex dens probed

A MANILA councilor wants a committee formed to investigate reports on the existence of prostitution fronts in several first- and second-class hotels in the city.

The prostitution fronts are in the guise of massage and sauna parlors, 3rd District Councilor Jhosep Lopez disclosed in his proposed resolution.

Lopez recalled that the city government closed down a sauna parlor in a first-class Manila hotel for allegedly operating as a prostitution front.

The parlor did not have any permit to operate and was reported to have opened again after the raid, Lopez added.

He said he would expose two other hotels with prostitution fronts to the committee.

Jerome Aning

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AUSTRALIAN TRAVEL ADVISORY

Unfair, cries Makati police chief

By Leila Salaverria

THERE are no rogue taxi drivers in Makati City, according to its chief of police, who went on to bely the Australian Embassy's advisory urging its citizens to steer clear of taxi drivers and deal with car rental agencies and accredited taxi operators as much as possible.

Calling the advisory "unfair," Supt. Jovito Gutierrez Jr., Makati police chief, said city policemen have not received any report of taxi drivers preying on foreigners, including Australians.

"(The advisory) is unfair to us," Gutierrez said in a phone interview. "If there are incidents involving erring taxi drivers, why don't they report it to us?"

But if they were to receive such reports, Gutierrez vowed immediate results.

"Complain to us and we will produce results," he said.

An advisory posted on the Australiasn Embassy's website urged visitors to Metro Manila "not to accept offers of food, drink or transportation from strangers."

The advisory, which was posted online early this month, also warned of "taxi drivers who extort money from passengers."

Department of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said he was unfazed by the Australian government's advisory and said he would talk to the Australian ambassador and brief him on the "much improved" security situation in the country.

The DOT chief said the advisory would not make a serious dent on the country's tourism image since the Australian market is "not that big."

Gutierrez said Makati policemen have already taken steps to prevent drivers from preying on passengers, especially foreigners.

Gutierrez said that in Ayala Center, they have taxi stands manned by Mapsa personnel who give passengers a Land Transportation Office form for the passengers to fill up and submit to the authorities if they have a complaint about the taxi taking them to their destination. The plate number, body number and name of the taxi is written on the form.

The police chief also boasted of their "Police Express" center in Ayala, a pilot project where people may come in to complain to police officers.

"If they lost something and they need a police report for insurance purposes, they won't need to go to headquarters anymore because they could get the report in the express center," Gutierrez said.

The Police Express center started operations Monday, said Gutierrez, and more express centers are planned for other areas in Makati. *With Jerome Aning*

LOZANO

Imelda lawyer arrested for bribery

By Alcuin Papa

A LAWYER of former First Lady Imelda Marcos was arrested allegedly for trying to bribe a police officer in Quezon City on Tuesday.

Lawyer Oliver Lozano, 51, of Roxas District, Quezon City, was arrested at around 5 p.m. the other day at the headquarters of the Metro Manila Drug Enforcement Group inside the Kamuning Police Station.

Reports showed Lozano was arrested after he allegedly handed over P15,000 to a PO1 Anjo Villanueva. The money was allegedly offered in exchange for the officer's "cooperation" when the latter submitted an oral testimony in a case involving Lozano's client, Jay dela Cuesta.

Villanueva was supposed to have testified yesterday in a drug case against Dela Cuesta, who was arrested for selling Ecstasy to the police officer.

But Lozano yesterday denied he tried to bribe narcotics agents on behalf of his client.

According to Lozano, MMDEG agents were the ones who tried first to extort money from his client.

Lozano claimed the lawmen asked for P200,000 from Dela Cuesta. But his client only managed to give the officers P60,000.

The lawyer added he went to the MMDEG office in Quezon City to hand over the money to the policemen and entrap the officers themselves for extortion.

However, the officers beat him to the draw and Lozano was arrested.

Dusit hotel exec lashes back at his accuser

By Leila Salaverria

THE DUSIT Hotel Nikko's general manager lashed back at the physical therapist who charged him with attempted rape and sexual harassment, and accused her of immorality and of having a "mercenary" intent in suing him.

In a rejoinder submitted on Tuesday, Japanese Chiyuki Fujimoto asked the state prosecutor to dismiss the charges, saying that the complainant "has the reprehensible propensity of filing totally baseless and unfounded charges against her foreigner customers."

Fujimoto cited a similar acts of lasciviousness case the complainant filed against a Singaporean in 1997, where the therapist claimed that the foreigner allegedly offered her money in exchange for a "hand-job."

The hotel executive also assailed the complainant's character, saying she has three children by three different men.

Tenorio fumed at Fujimoto's rejoinder.

"I am disgusted with his statements," the lawyer said in an interview. "Does that mean that just because my client has three children out of wedlock, she can't accuse other people of harassment?"

"My client is harassed all over again with statements like Mr. Fujimoto's. She's the accuser. Why does it seem as if she's the one being accused?"

The meddling Catholic Church

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE CATHOLIC Church should stop interfering in the government's population control program.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), hinted that the Church would campaign against politicians who would push for a more aggressive population control program.

The contravida in the government's efforts to slow down the galloping population growth is the Catholic Church. It requires the faithful to use only the old and largely ineffective methods of birth control.

***

By the year 2010, the country's population is expected to grow to 100 million from the present 80 million.

Geez! How can 100 million people be accommodated in such a small country? How can the country feed 100 million people on the already limited resources-resources that have been substantially reduced by dynamite fishing and deforestation? How can the country's labor market accommodate a big additional workforce when at present jobs are scarce?

***

The Catholic Church doesn't care a hoot whether the population reaches 100 million or 200 million.

It doesn't care whether people will die in the streets of starvation and diseases.

It doesn't care whether crime will go unabated as a result of the crush of a very large population.

It doesn't care whether people will be driven to commit crime because they can't find employment.

What the priests and bishops care about is that there will be a big addition to the Catholic Church by the year 2010. And that means a lot of money.

***

We'll never progress as a nation if government leaders allow themselves to be dictated upon by the Catholic Church, or any other church for that matter.

Italy, a staunch Catholic country in Europe and seat of the Roman Catholic Church, was just like the Philippines decades ago. The Church dictated what policies the Italian government should adopt in vital issues like divorce and population control.

But the Italian Parliament went against the wishes of the Church and passed laws on divorce and family planning.

***

The Church could not do anything but go along with the Italian people's wish.

The Italians just followed Christ's injunction: Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. Leave spiritual matters to the Church and mundane matters to the government.

As simple as that.

***

President Macapagal-Arroyo attended the 18th anniversary celebration of El Shaddai, the Catholic charismatic group led by the controversial Mike Velarde.

She buttered up the El Shaddai leader, saying that the El Shaddai has the blessings from above.

Referring to the charismatic leader she said, "Truly, this man is anointed." She was quoting what one of her former classmates said about Velarde.

Truly, Mike Velarde is the anointed one. Anointed to make oodles and oodles of money from millions of gullible followers?

***

Teresita Ang-See of the Citizens' Action Against Crime is hard to please when it comes to law enforcers doing their job of going after kidnappers. She lambasted the Philippine National Police (PNP) under then Director General Leandro Mendoza for failing to solve the kidnapping problem.

But now Ang-See is all praises for Hermogenes Ebdane, who has replaced Mendoza as PNP chief, and his Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer). Pacer replaced the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) which Ebdane also headed before becoming PNP chief.

Since Pacer was formed, it has smashed several kidnap-for-ransom gangs. Many kidnappers have been killed in shootouts or captured by Pacer agents.

***

In fairness to Mendoza, he did his best in going after kidnap gangs. He was also successful in breaking up some kidnap gangs.

His problem was the perception among the Chinese community that he was playing footsies with some kidnap gangs.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. Mendoza's reputation was destroyed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, his predecessor at the PNP. Lacson's black propaganda machinery did a good job on Mendoza. Whatever good things Mendoza did was countered by Lacson's black propaganda.

***

Why does Lacson hate Mendoza?

Because Mendoza and his men captured Camp Crame during Edsa 2. When Lacson arrived from Malacañang after a meeting with beleaguered President Erap, Mendoza was waiting for him.

PNP chief Lacson was given a choice: either Lacson announced his defection to the "other side" with his dignity intact, or Mendoza would announce that Camp Crame had been taken over with the handcuffed Lacson beside him.

The rest is history.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 22, 2002
Queenship of Mary

1st Reading: Is 9:1-6
Gospel: Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent to a young virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

But the angel said, "Do not fear, Mary, for God has looked kindly on you. You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever and his reign shall have no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be if I am a virgin?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. With God nothing is impossible."

Then Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

Commentary

The focus in today's memorial is really not Mary but Jesus, her Son. The one promised to be conceived in her is the heir of the kingdom of David, endowed with admirable titles in the first reading. His life and mission, his position in the world and the whole universe is what determines Mary's life and mission and her position in the same. Clearly the two complement one another. This is the reason for us in the church to be mindful of the feminist principle in our life and service of love to the world. Otherwise, such life and service will not be life-nurturing if they are propelled by domination and not by a caring service, as done by Mary, the handmaid of the Lord.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (SPECIAL CONTRACTS: SALES)—Law on Sales governs an agreement of dacion en pago—Article 1245 of the Civil Code provides that the law on sales shall govern an agreement of dacion en pago. A contract of sale is perfected at the moment there is a meeting of the minds of the parties thereto upon the thing which is the object of the contract and upon the price. "In dacion en pago, as a special mode of payment, the debtor offers another thing to the creditor who accepts it as equivalent of payment of an outstanding obligation. The undertaking really partakes in one sense of the nature of sale, that is, the creditor is really buying the thing or property of the debtor, payment for which is to be charged against the debtor's debt. As such, the essential elements of a contract of sale, namely, consent, object certain, and cause or consideration must be present. In its modern concept, what actually takes place in dacion en pago is an objective novation of the obligation where the thing offered as an accepted equivalent of the performance of an obligation is considered as the object of the contract of sale, while the debt is considered as the purchase price. In any case, comment consent is an essential prerequisite, be it sale or novation, to have the effect of totally extinguishing the debt or obligation." [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Philippine Lawjn Bus Co. v. Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 130972, January 23, 2002]

DIGEST BY RUEL VERA

Elderly back running priest in libel battle

By Agnes Donato

AN ELDERLY group yesterday trooped to the Quezon City Hall of Justice to start its signature and fund-raising campaign in support of Fr. Robert Reyes.

Popularly known as the "running priest," Reyes was scheduled to be arraigned yesterday for the libel case which Rep. Jackie Enrile filed against him.

But the arraignment did not push through, as Reyes' lawyers pointed out that the justice department has yet to rule on the defense's motion for reinvestigation.

Holding placards that called for truth and justice, some 30 men and women, aged 60 and above, accompanied Reyes when he went to court yesterday morning.

Marita Gonzales, 84, wife of the late national artist NVM Gonzales and leader of the so-called "Tuesday Circle," said she and her colleagues initiated the "Piso at Pirma Para sa Katarungan, Katotohanan at Pag-aalala" to help people who had been "unjustly accused" of various crimes.

Gonzales said they aimed to collect two million signatures and P2 million, which is equivalent to the moral damages that Enrile, son of former Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, was asking from the priest.

She admitted the drive was initially aimed to remind people of the martial law years.

But she said her group had changed its mind about this.

"We don't want to be divisive and get involved with politics anymore," Gonzales said. "We just want to do what we can do before our time to go arrives."

"We're old people," she said. "Most people our age become babysitters, or spend their days sitting on a rocking chair. But what we want is to do something for the next generation."

Manila marks Plaza Miranda, Ninoy death anniversaries

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday led rites marking the Plaza Miranda bombing on Aug. 21, 1971 and the assassination of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. on Aug. 21, 1983.

Atienza said the Plaza Miranda bombing sounded the death knell of freedom and democracy in the country, while the Aquino slaying marked the beginning of their restoration.

The mayor, accompanied by city officials, students and residents, laid a wreath at Aquino's monument on the corner of P. Burgos and Bonifacio Drives at 9 a.m.

The mayor later led a march to Plaza Miranda, where President Macapagal Arroyo joined him to unveil a marker.

But as victims and relatives of the bombing trooped to the square to offer their prayers for the dead, the militant group Sanlakas held a picket at the foot of the Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang to mark Aquino's death.

Some 1,000 members of Sanlakas and its affiliates, Partido ng Manggagawa, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod and Peace Camp protested the "dismal state of democracy" under the Macapagal administration.

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said they remember Aquino's sacrifice that became a turning point in the struggle for democracy during the Marcos regime.

But he said that despite the two Edsa revolts inspired by Aquino, "we now face a beleaguered administration that is the No. 1 threat to our democratic rights."

Aquino was assassinated at the tarmac of what was then the Manila International Airport upon his return from exile in the United States.

The militants gathered on España Street around noon before they marched to the bridge, where they burned an effigy of the President.

Among those who attended the Plaza Miranda rites were former Sen. Eva Estrada-Kalaw and Judy Roxas-Araneta, widow of the late Sen. Gerry Roxas.

Mrs. Araneta read the statement of former senator Jovito Salonga, who was unable to attend. Salonga was one of the worst injured in the bombing.

In 1971, two grenades were lobbed onstage while the Liberal Party was holding its *miting de avance* at the plaza, killing nine persons and injuring scores of others.

Atienza, a candidate for a seat in the Manila council, was onstage during the explosions and was among those injured.

The mayor called the bombing a "great crime against the Filipino people."

The perpetrators, he said, should be blamed for the country's suffering when then President Ferdinand Marcos used the incident to declare martial law.

Maasinhon meet at QC

THE MGA Maasinhon sa Metro Manila, Inc. will celebrate the 48th anniversary of the Feast of Our Lady of Assumption on Aug. 24, 6 p.m. at the Jade Valley Restaurant, 39 Scout Torillo Street corner Timog Ave., Quezon City. A novena, which started on Aug. 15, will go on for nine days at the SM Megamall chapel at 7 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Mr. Edicio dela Torre, who will talk about "The Role of NGOs in Youth Empowerment and Rural Development."

All Maasinhons in Metro Manila are invited to attend this year's celebration.

Burger bandits hounded

A MANHUNT is on for the robbers who hit a Jollibee branch in Pasig City early this week.

Supt. John Socito, Pasig City police chief, told the INQUIRER yesterday that witnesses have identified the mugshots of three robbers involved in the heist at the hamburger joint.

Socito refused to name the suspects but added that the suspects came to know each other and became friends in jail. He said he had also sent policemen to as far away as the Bicol region to track down the suspects.

"We have good leads about their possible whereabouts," Socito said.

Socito said at least 10 armed men in ski masks barged into the Manggahan branch of Jollibee on the corner of Amang Rodriguez and Calle Industria early Sunday evening, disarmed the restaurant's two security guards and ordered everyone to lie face down on the floor. Minutes later, the robbers took off with at least P250,000 in cash on board a green Kia Besta van (XCL 172), he added.

An Eastern Police District intelligence officer told the Inquirer that either soldiers or policemen are behind the robbery incident. He said the timing and speed of the robbers and the firearms they used indicated their military background. *Nelson Flores*

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4 GOLD (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
6 GOLD (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	INSOMNIA
8	GAMITAN
9	LILO & STITCH
10	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana Cinema
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2	TRIPLE X
3	BIGLANG LIKO

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
5	BIGLANG LIKO

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	INSOMNIA
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3	TRIPLE X
4	GAMITAN
5	HUMAN EATER
6	SEX & ZEN
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13 | THX

1	TRIPLE X

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	D' URAGONS
2	WINDTALKERS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	GAMITAN
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	
A	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	GAMITAN
2	TRIPLE X
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	INSOMNIA
5	MORE PANTS IN THE ANTS
6	GAMITAN
7 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
8 (SDDS)	SWEETEST THING
9 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
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1	GAMITAN
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3	SWEETEST THING
4 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
5	SEX & ZEN
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7 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
8	BIGLANG LIKO
9	D' URAGONS

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2	
3	
4	SEX & ZEN
5 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
6	GAMITAN
7 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
8	BIGLANG LIKO

Gotesco Ortigas
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5 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X

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1	GAMITAN

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Dilson Lords Jennet	SEX & ZEN EVA

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1	TRIPLE X
2	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
3	GAMITAN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
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1 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
2	SEX & ZEN
3	RESERVE
4	GAMITAN
5	RESERVER

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED
3	CLOSED
4	CLOSED
5	CLOSED
6	CLOSED

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67

1	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN

CitiMall
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1	
2	

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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1	GAMITAN
2	SORORITY BOYS
3 (DTS)	TRIPLE X

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SORORITY BOYS
2 (DTS)	GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
4	SWEETEST THING

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	SWEETEST THING
2 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
3 (DTS)	SORORITY BOYS
4	GAMITAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	D' URAGONS
2	8 LEGGED FREAKS
3	TRIPLE X
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	SWEETEST THING
3 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
4 DTS	8 LEGGED FREAKS

Lianas Cinema
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1 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
2	RESERVE
3	BIGLANG LIKO
4 (DTS)	GAMITAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3 (DTS)	SORORITY BOYS
4	BIGLANG LIKO
5	MAPUPULANG ROSAS

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1	GAMITAN
2	TRIPLE X
3	BIGLANG LIKO

Olivarez Los Baños
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1	BIGLANG LIKO
2	TRIPLE X
3	GAMITAN

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1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BIGLANG LIKO
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	GAMITAN
2	TRIPLE X
3	TRIPLE X

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LILO & STITCH
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	BIGLANG LIKO
4	TRIPLE X

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3 (DTS)	ABOUT A BOY
4	SORORITY BOYS

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2	BIGLANG LIKO
3	TRIPLE X
4	LILO & STITCH
5	INSOMNIA
6	GAMITAN
7	HUMAN EATER
8	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

SM CENTERPOINT
7140522 -7161416

1	GAMITAN
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	INSOMNIA
4	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	TRIPLE X
6	BIGLANG LIKO
7	LILO & STITCH
8	SWEETEST THING
9	UNFAITHFUL
10	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	INSOMNIA
2	HUMAN EATER
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	TRIPLE X
5	LILO & STITCH
6	GAMITAN
7	TRIPLE X
8	UNFAITHFUL
9	D' URAGONS
10	SWEETEST THING
11	SEX & ZEN
12	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	TRIPLE X
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	SWEETEST THING
5	INSOMNIA
6	TRIPLE X
7	SEX & ZEN
8	8 LEGGED FREAKS
9	LILO & STITCH
10	HUMAN EATER
11	KILLING ME SOFTLY
12	GAMITAN

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	TRIPLE X
2	LILO & STITCH
3	TRIPLE X
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
6	WINDTALKERS
7	HUMAN EATER
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY
9	GAMITAN
10	INSOMNIA
11	SWEETEST THING
12	SEX & ZEN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9285462

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	GAMITAN
4	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	INSOMNIA
6	LILO & STITCH
7	SWEETEST THING
8	TRIPLE X

SM SOUTHMALL
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MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS	
2	LILO & STITCH
3	TRIPLE X
4	INSOMNIA
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	SEX & ZEN
7	GAMITAN
8	TRIPLE X
9	UNFAITHFUL
10	SWEETEST THING

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	TRIPLE X
3	LILO & STITCH
4	GAMITAN
5	BIGLANG LIKO
6	ORANGE COUNTY
7	STUART LITTLE 2
8	HIGH CRIMES

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3209422

1	GAMITAN
2	CLOSED
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	TRIPLE X
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	LILO & STITCH
7	CLOSED
8	MEGIDDO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	TRIPLE X
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	LILO & STITCH
4	SWEETEST THING
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	GAMITAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	GAMITAN
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	TRIPLE X
4	LILO & STITCH

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3	INSOMNIA
MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS	

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	TRIPLE X
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	LILO & STITCH
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5	POWERPUFF GIRLS
6	STUART LITTLE 2

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4	

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3	
4	

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LILO & STITCH
11:00 FS/11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/ 9:05/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:25 END

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7	SEX-ZEN/HUMAN EATER
8	LILO & STITCH
9	KILLING ME SOFTLY
10	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	TRIPLE X
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	GAMITAN
6	LILO & STITCH
7	INSOMIA

Metro East -
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1	UNFAITHFUL
2	THE SWEETEST THING
3	MORE ANTS.../SEX-ZEN
4	LILO & STITCH
5	TRIPLE X
6	INSOMIA
7	GAMITAN
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Novaliches
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1	SEX-ZEN/KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	TRIPLE X
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	LILIO & STITCH
6	INSOMIA
7	UNFAITHFUL
8	GAMITAN

Imus
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1	TRIPLE X
2	THE SWEETEST THING
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	INSOMIA
5	GAMITAN
6	LILO & STITCH

Bacolod
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2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	LILO & STITCH
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2	STUART LITTLE
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4	ABOUT A BOY
5	LILO & STITCH
ANG GALING-GALING/GAMITAN	

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4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	TRIPLE X
6	

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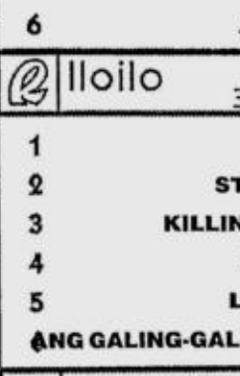

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Suspense-drama thriller in real time

From p. A22

it from his Chief of Staff Nina Myers (Sarah Clarke) while he's betraying his daughter's trust with the e-mail scenario. Kim, despite her "wisdom for a young age" veneer, trusts her boozed-up gal pal and her swaggering new "friends."

Teri also quickly believes that the man who's also looking for her daughter is trustworthy so they share a car to look for both girls (hey, he's polite, or so she thinks). But if both Teri and Kim do encounter threatening situations, they seem resourceful enough to improvise their own battle plans. That is, unless the writers plan to portray them as victims, which is highly unlikely.

Senator Palmer also has issues between him and his puzzled wife, as an accusation surfaces and threatens his career and quite possibly, his marriage.

The California-bound photographer carelessly blurts out confidential info to impress a total stranger and get some action in the restroom. He and the rest of the passengers pay the price for his stupidity, as the as-yet unidentified woman is bound to wreak more havoc later that day.

Revenge scheme

It's not hard to put two and two together, to assume that the larger picture involves some revenge scheme, since Jack Bauer has made enemies in the past. But it's also entirely possible that it doesn't involve anything as used and predictable as that.

Also, since "24" looks at all perspectives, incidents that intersect with others to form coincidences are bound to happen.

This kind of "omniscient view" for the viewer is quite enjoyable since it's a technique that's rarely used in TV.

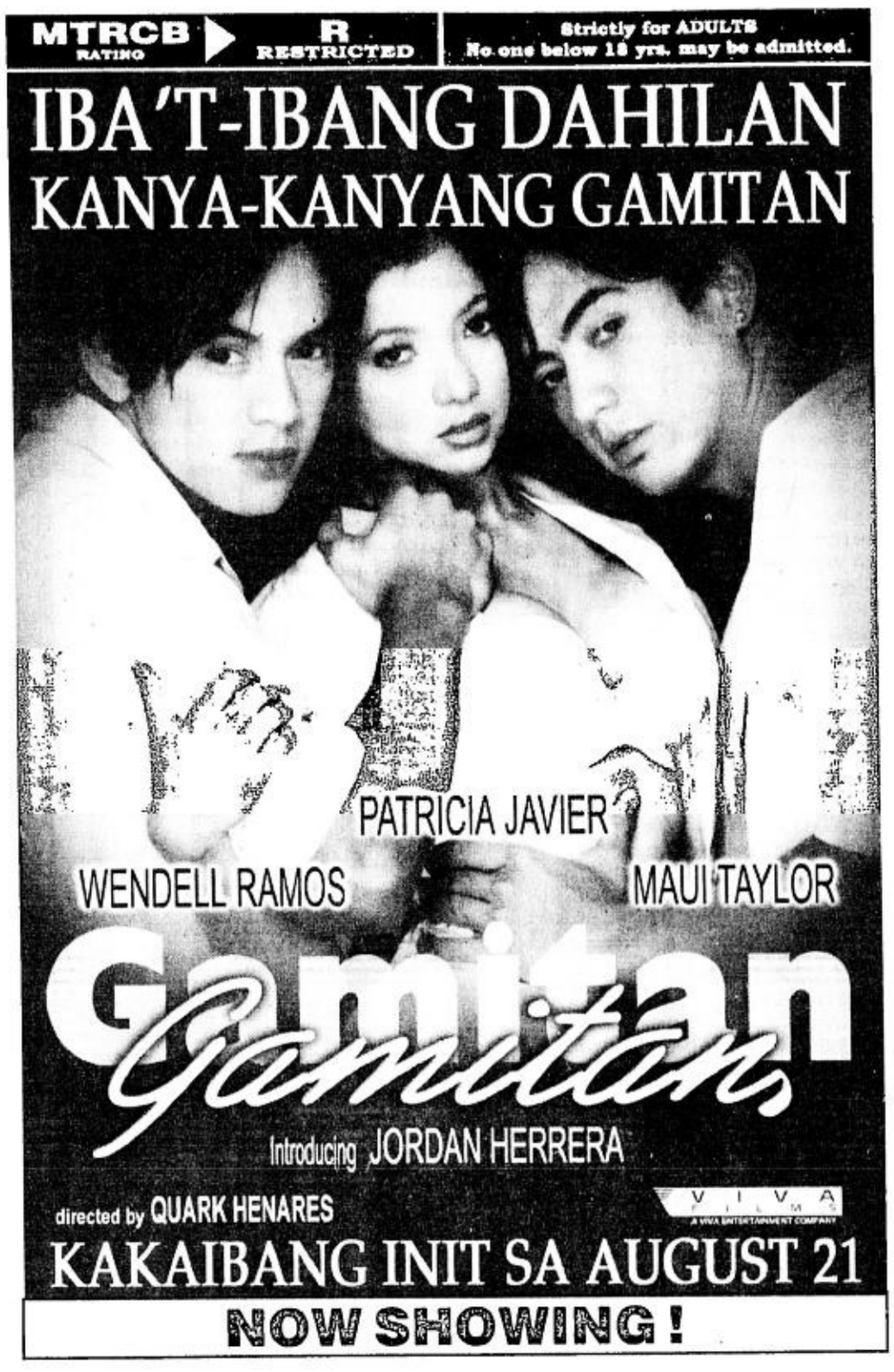
The show's total running length can be equivalent to several mini-series, which means that potentially, anything that can happen probably will.

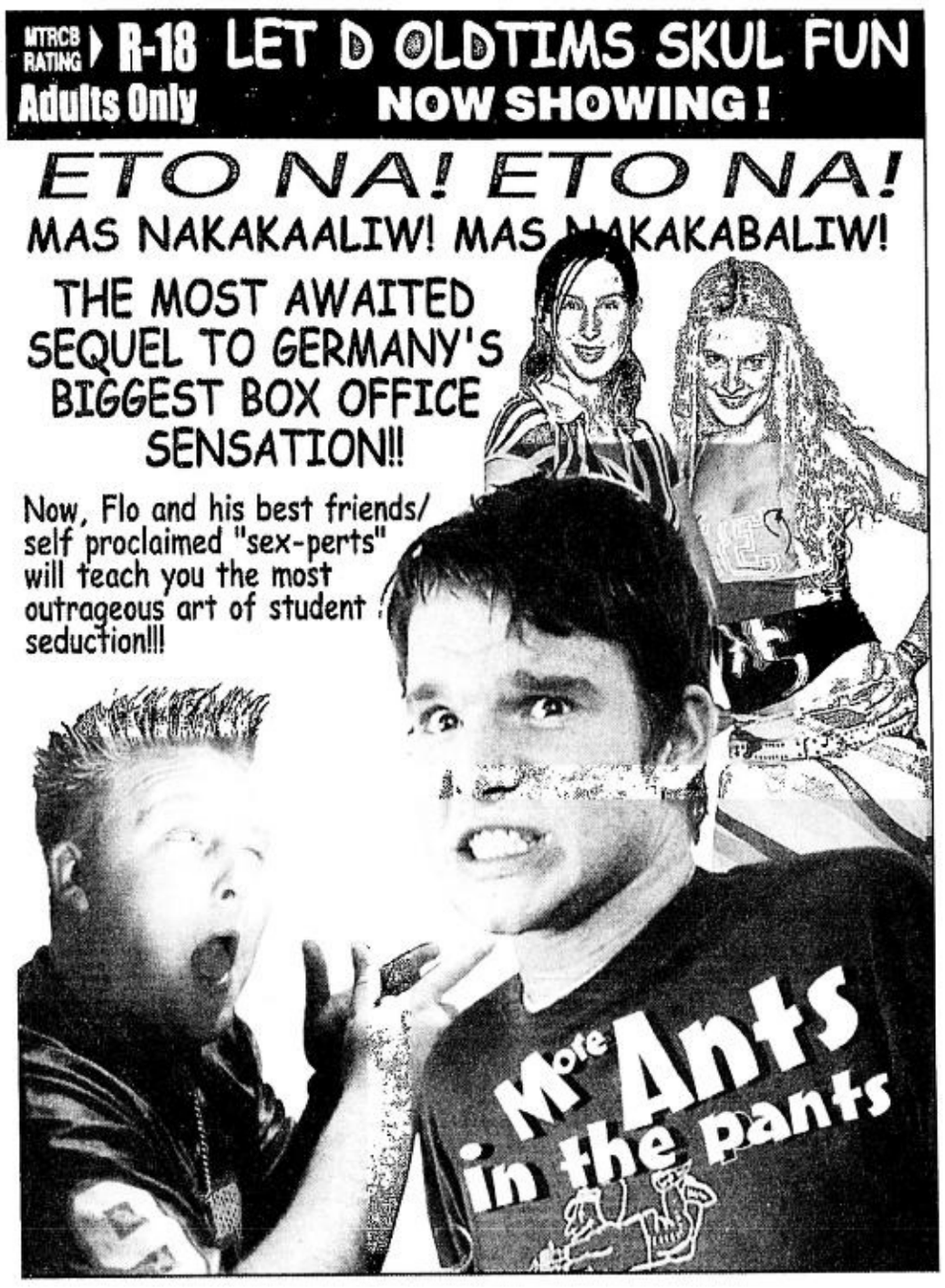
If the movie "Magnolia" was a weekly thriller told in 24 parts, this would be the closest thing to its realization.

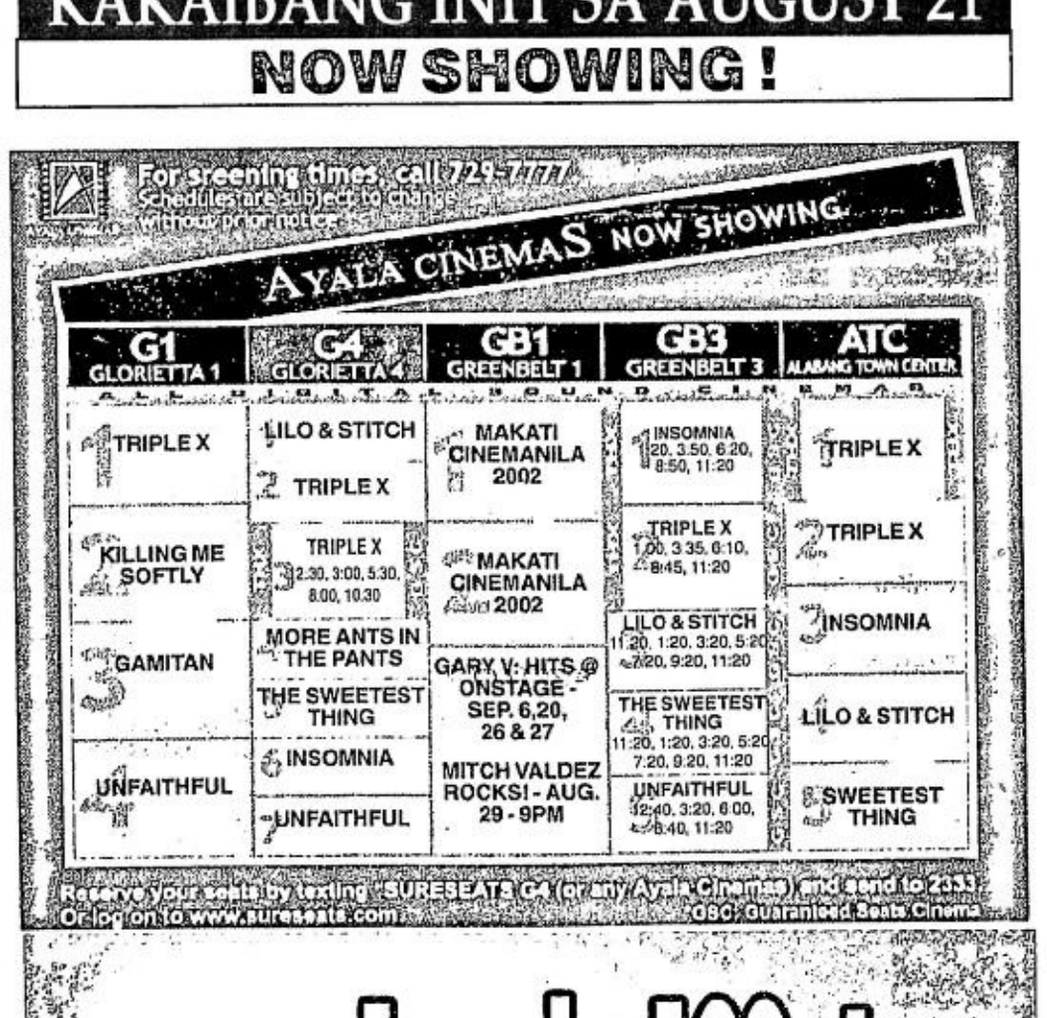
It's going to be interesting how the remaining hours play out. It seems that none of the characters are bound to sleep; maybe they'd just have tiny naps, because it's going to be a very busy, unforgettable day for all of them.

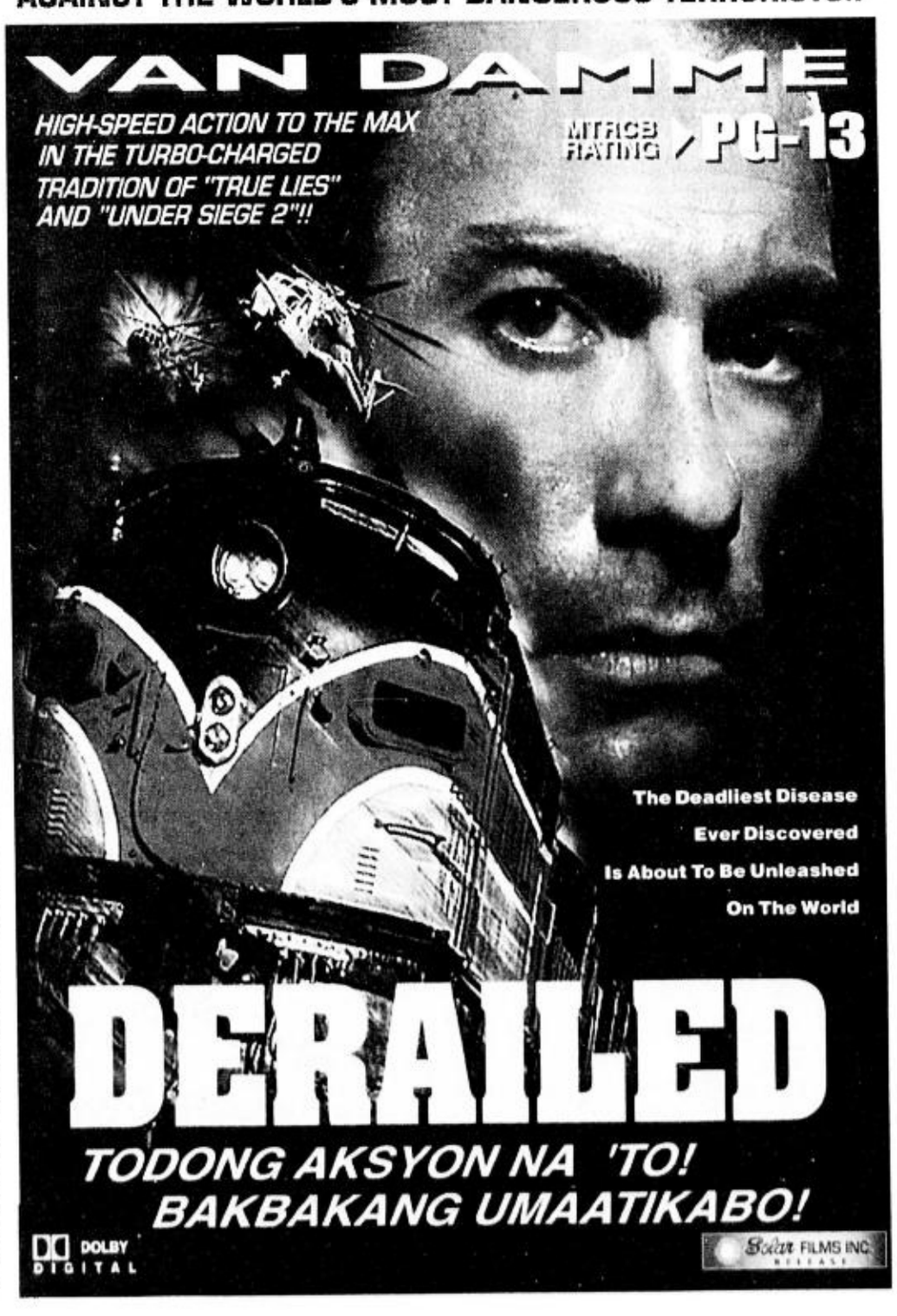
This show took a huge risk, but acclaim has been unanimous abroad, and the risk ultimately paid off.

The clock is ticking for Jack Bauer and company, and whatever happens next, only time will tell. In "24", just like in the real world, time isn't always friendly.









Andy Bais topbills homecoming show in Dumaguete City

ANDY who? **Andy Bais**, the outstanding singer who came out of nowhere to win the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit's prestigious Fe S. Panlilio scholarship award for best new talent.

Andy Bais, who did a performance tour singing duets with—*si* **Lea Salonga** *lang naman*.

Andy Bais, who topbilled the hit two-person musical-comedy revue, "Beauty and the Best" with popular VJ **Belinda Panelo**.

Andy Bais, who's played important roles in many plays and original Filipino musicals staged all over the country.

Andy Bais, who's appeared not just onstage, but also on TV and in the movies (he's currently shooting a film for Seiko Films).

Yes, Andy has definitely gone places, and fully deserve having a homecoming show built around him at his alma mater, Silliman University in Dumaguete City on Aug. 26.

The special presentation will have Andy singing and clowning around at his inimitable best, so his hometown audience will definitely have a lot to applaud and laugh about this coming Monday.

For his part, Andy is very happy to perform for his friends and townmater. It's great to get ovations from audiences in Metro Manila, but the delighted response of a hometown crowd is a special thrill!

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

In his Dumaguete performance, Andy will be supported by students of Silliman's School of Communication. For tickets, call Nora or Celia at (035)422-6002, locals 255 and 256.

Quiz show errors

From **Loi Landicho**, this compilation of booboos on an episode of "The Weakest Link" featuring local rappers as contestants:

Quizmaster: *Ano ang tawag sa taong tubo at nakatira sa* Italy?

Contestant: Indones!

(How did Indonesians get into Italy? No, the correct answer is *Italian*.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Sa anong pangalan mas kilala ang* actress *na si* Oro?

Contestant: *Ate* Guy!

(*Walang himala*! No, it's **Elizabeth Oropesa**!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Kung ang ginagamit sa* pedal *ay paa, ano naman ang ginagamit kapag sinabing* manual?

Contestant: *Mata*!

(That one's for Ripley's. No, *dapat* hands.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ilan ang babae sa* painting *na* The Last Supper?

Contestant: *Apat*!

(There were four female Apostles? No, the answer should be: *wala*.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Sa* Filipino idiom, *kapag ang isang tao ay "nagbibingi-bingihan," siya ay sinasabing may "taingang* (blank)"?

Contestant: *Malabo*.

("*Taingang malabo*"? There's no such Filipino idiom! *Kawali* is the correct answer)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Saang* animated film *nakilala sina* Woody *at* Buzz Lightyear?

Contestant: "The Lion King"!

(What animals did they play? No, it's "Toy Story".)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Sino ang* director *ng pelikulang "Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa"*?

Contestant: **Carlo J. Caparas**!

(Thank God, those kids weren't massacred! *Mali*. *Dapat* **Chito Roño**.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang* first name *ni* General MacArthur *na nagbitiw ng mga salitang*, "I shall return" *nung* World War Two?

Contestant: George!

(Gen. George McArthur? That sounds so strange! No, his first name was Douglas.)

'O.A' spends birthday without Michelle

I IMMENSELY enjoyed **Ogie Alcasid**'s birthday bash.

Thanks to my *muy simpatico* buddy, former Batangas councilor **John Santillan**, for coming with me.

It was an intimate gathering of Ogie's closest chums. The party was held at the Alcasid's cozy place. But the birthday boy was home alone because his lovely wife **Michelle (van Eimeren)** and their adorable daughter **Leila** are in Australia for Michelle's date with the stork any day now. Ogie will be flying to the Land Down Under this week to be by Michelle's side when she gives birth.

He sighed, "She felt bad that she wouldn't be around for my 35th birthday but it was really so sweet of her to plan this party before she left. She made sure the caterer and guest list were all okay even up to the time we were rushing to the airport."

He will be gone for a month, which will give him ample time to rest before his schedule goes ballistic in preparation for his major concert at the Araneta Coliseum in October.

"I'm quite nervous about my show," he said. "I've been a guest of other artists in the Big Dome but it's my first time to have my own big big concert. It's called 'O.A. Sa Hits.' Those are my initials.

"Maybe you can say that I'm really a bit O.A. when it comes to my music. I put my heart and soul into each song and composition." The guests at his birthday dinner were **Richard** and **Lucy Gomez**, **Dennis Padilla** and **Marjorie Barretto**, **Dingdong Avanzado** and **Jessa Zaragosa**, **Gelli de Belen**, **Jaya**, **Michael V.**, **Randy Ortiz**, *Direk* **Louie Ignacio** and Mayor JV **Ejercito**, among others.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

Dennis and Marj are more than glad that the storm in her sister **Claudine's (Barretto)** life is now over. They were the frontliners in defending Claudine during the "battle" after **Rico Yan**'s sudden demise.

I teased Dennis: "You seemed like you were mad at the whole world then!"

He chuckled. "I almost forgot I was a comedian. *Parang* boxing *talaga hanggang* knockout!"

I asked Marj how Claudine is coping these days. She said: "I think her anger saved her."

That should put to rest all lingering questions about Claudine.

And then came Dingdong and Jessa. They are excited about going on an extended honeymoon in the US.

"We really want to have a baby already," Dingdong said, "even if we have to lock ourselves up in the room for days."

As the party was about to end, Ogie, Mayor JV, my dashing escort John and I all had a good laugh recalling the fashion trends we grew up with, to the accompaniment of Ogie's antics. It was heartwarming to see JV let his hair down and forget politics even for awhile.

Just like Ogie's many hits, the happy memories of his party will be flashing in my mind for a long, long time.

Beverly Knight

My favorite these days is **Beverly Knight**'s newest album, "Who I Am," from EMI Philippines.).

At 27, Beverly is one of the greats of Britain's R& B scene. If there's anything that can describe her sound, it's "much missed."

While the whole album is inspired by many things, the most significant, according to her, is her having come out of a long-term relationship. This particular event, and many other realizations in life, prompted her to call the album "Who I Am."

All the songs in her album are worth listening to. You will pay attention even to the slightest nuances. That's how good it is.

The song I love most is "Shoulda Woulda Coulda," which is about how hard it is to let go of love.

Check out the album and fall in love with Bev's music as much as I have.

Guess who

Guess who this separated actress is who gamely joins her "rich brat" boyfriend in his Ecstacy sessions. Is she just trying to lose weight or is she losing her mind? Wonder what her beau needs "E" for. Doesn't she give him enough ecstacy?

Guess who this sexy star is who has this annoying habit of addressing her co-stars as "*Ate*" even if they are much younger than she. Another sexy siren complained to me, "I hate it when she makes it seem that we're super close. We hardly even talk. When she calls me *Ate* I feel insulted because she says it in a way that's quite offensive. It's not meant to show respect. It's as if she's stressing that I'm older than her. Excuse me! Even if I reach her age, I'll look younger than she does now."

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GAMITAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BIGLANG LIKO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SWEETEST THING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	INSOMNIA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	SEX & ZEN
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLAY)	GAMITAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIYAK NA GUBAT / WILD SIDE
ODEON	TRIPLE XL
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	GAMITAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SUM OF ALL FEARS / 7 DAYS TO LIVE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SEX2 & ZEN THE UNTOLD STORY
REMAR	GAMITAN
REMAR-2	BIGLANG LIKO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	GAMITAN
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-2	TRIPLE X
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-3	SWEETEST THING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	8 LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HUMAN EATER
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	D' URAGONS
CINEMA-8	SEX & ZEN UNTOLD STORY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	INSOMNIA
CINEMA-12	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
CINEMA-14	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-15	GAMITAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

NOW SHOWING!

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 | Strictly for Adults Only

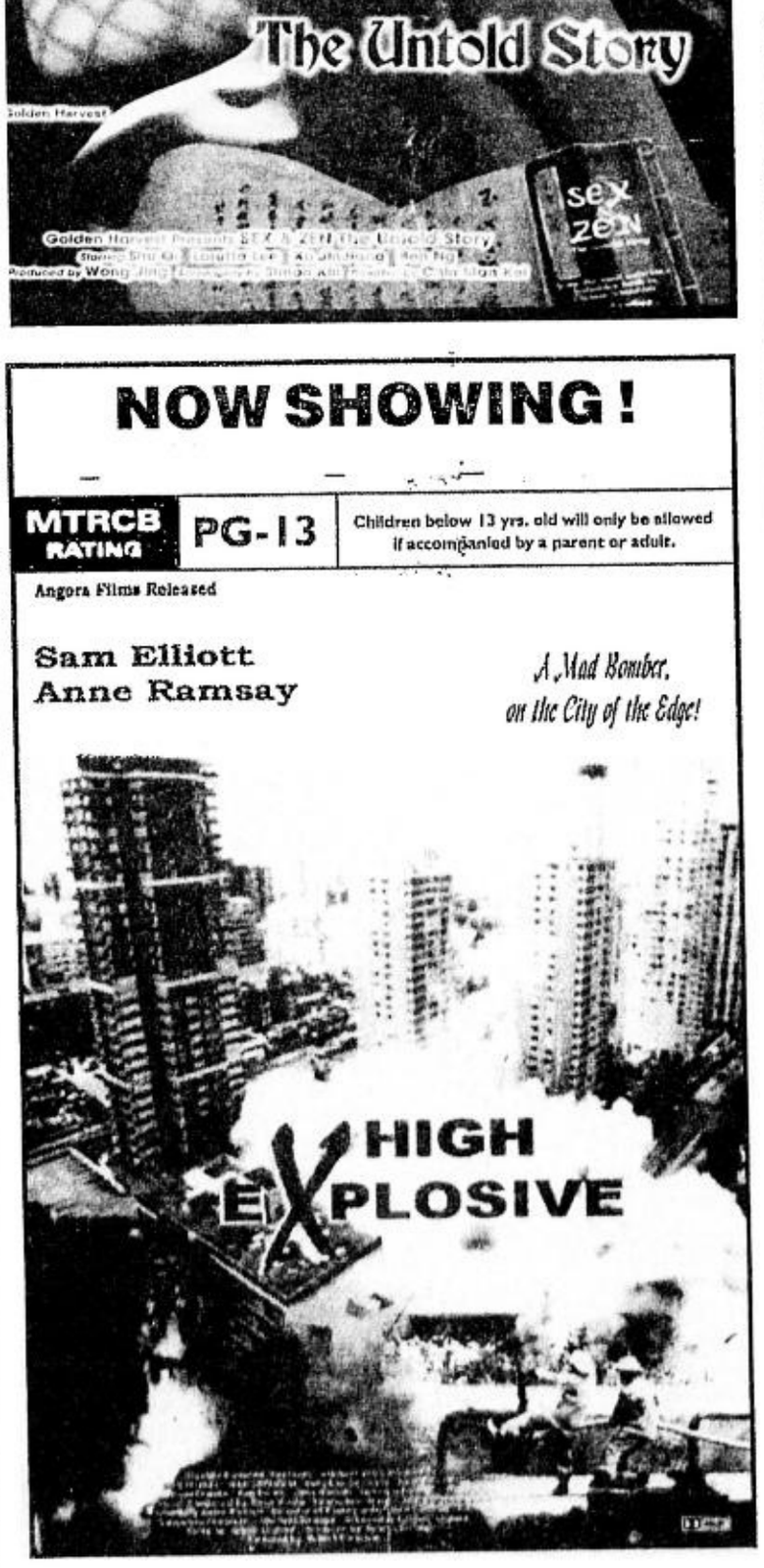
NOW SHOWING!

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

Angora Films Released

Sam Elliott
Anne Ramsay

A Mad Bomber, on the City of the Edge!



Monster Radio marks 19th year

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

INSOMNIA R13 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00	LILO & STITCH GP 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:30	UNFAITHFUL R18 11:30,2:05,4:40, 7:15,9:50
GAMITAN R18 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:00	SWEETEST THING R18 12:30,2:20,4:10, 6:00,7:50,9:40	TRIPLE X P13 11:50,2:25,5:00, 7:35,10:10

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CINEMA 2 LILO & STITCH GP 18 UNFAITHFUL R18

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AUGUST 30 & 31, 2002	SOUTH BORDER w/ KYLA	9:00 PM

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Cameron Diaz Sizzles in the Years Sexiest Romantic Comedy

2ND WEEK!

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 | Strictly for Adults Only

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

MONSTER Radio RX 93.1 turns 19 this August with a raft of events that highlight its number one status among the happening 15-25 set.

The radio station will culminate its activites in two big anniversary parties: For listeners (at Hard Rock Café Makati on Aug. 23) and an Invitational Party at a later date.

Aug. 24, motorists can drive up to the RX Anniversary Stick-on for their free RX 93.1 sticker to be installed by the RX jocks and newscasters themselves.

Monster movie premiere this month is "Signs," starring Mel Gibson (Aug. 26, SM Megamall)

On air, the most popular morning duo, Chico and Delamar returns on the "Morning Rush" (daily 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.).

"Hip 26," RX 93.1's weekend urban contemporary programming, continues to draw in R&B and hiphop fans, as well as new converts on Saturday evenings and the entire day on Sundays.

"The Love Clinic," best drama program on Metro Manila, has been moved from its original Sunday time slot to Tuesday, 9 to 10 p.m.

The RX Band Breakout 2002, Monster Radio's annual artist hunt, will also be launched.

RX 93.1's matchless daily line-up of programs and jock tandems now includes: "The Stretch," with Boom Gonzalez and Trish (9 a.m. to 12 noon), "All-Hit Daily Survey" with Louie D and Danielle (12 to 3 p.m.), "The Ride," with Jude Rocha and Francesca (3 to 6 p.m.), "The Primetime Clinic," with Dr. Love Tom Alvarez and Evette (7 to 10 p.m.).

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Cory Quirino kidnapping soon to be a movie

By Leah Salterio

THE SENSATIONAL 1995 kidnapping of TV host Cory Quirino in Lake Caliraya in Quezon province will soon be made into a movie.

The script will be written by the director, who is now getting from Cory a detailed account of what really happened during her three-day ordeal in the hands of her abductors, according to production insiders.

The producers have made a short list of actresses being considered to play Cory. Most of them are like Cory, fair-skinned, intelligent, articulate. And each has a body to flaunt, just like her.

The list includes Dawn Zulueta, Charlene Gonzales, Gretchen Barretto, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Dina Bonnevie, Pops Fernandez and Alice Dixson.

Dawn, Dina and Alice have played true-to-life roles in the past.

Dawn played the title role in the film-bio of actress and rape victim Maggie de la Riva. The movie, produced by the husband and wife team of Carlo Caparas and Donna Villa for Golden Lion Films, was a box-office success.

In "The Jessica Alfaro Story," Alice was the controversial witness in the Vizconde massacre.

Dina played the mother of the Duce family whose husband (played by Ariel Rivera) was charged with child molestation in New York in Gil Portes' "Minsan May Pangarap."

Cory, granddaughter of the late President Elpidio Quirino, will also have a hand in choosing the actress who will star in her film-bio.

BONNEVIE

DIXSON

ZULUETA

Cory was on board her red Toyota Corolla when five men abducted her after she left Lake Caliraya in Pagbilao, Quezon on Sept. 23, 1995. She was with her driver-bodyguard Panfilo Catuday and assistant Helen Salaver.

The five men's car blocked the path of Cory's car in an isolated portion of the Maharlika Highway. They took her P4,000 cash and an estimated P70,000 worth of jewelry.

For three days, the abductors brought Cory and her two companions to different places in Laguna and as far as Camarines Sur.

The men were even planning to bring the two women to the Visayas to make them their mistresses.

The kidnappers were in their late 20s and early 30s.

It is not yet known who are being considered to play the abductors in the movie.

Police rescued Cory and her companions on Sept. 26 on a road checkpoint in Calauag, Quezon, where her abductors' car had had an accident.

Cory has since become an anti-crime crusader.

In May 1998, the five men were sentenced to death for highway robbery with kidnapping for ransom and extortion. Cory cried in court as the verdict was read.

The sources said the producers will also coordinate with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to come up with a script that is faithful to the incidents of Cory's kidnapping.

QUIRINO. Will also have a hand in choosing the actress who will star in her film-bio.

Cody Moreno is finally getting what he wants

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHEN Cody Moreno visited the INQUIRER office last year to take part in its post-Valetine fund raiser, he told this writer how frustrating it was for him to be working as an actor and a commercial model. It made him depressed, he said, because all he ever wanted was to be a singer.

Now he's starting to get what he wanted.

Born in the Philippines of an American Chinese father and a Filipino Spanish mother, Cody went to the US at age 8 and lived there for 15 years. He returned to the Philippines to pursue a singing career but, for a year and a half, did anything but sing.

He did movies with Angelu de Leon and Glydel Mercado, and telemovies with Sunshine Cruz and Andrea del Rosario.

But Cody continues to be a model. He currently endorses a telecommunications company, a toothpaste, a beer and a deodorant, among others.

He is also featured opposite Ara Mina on GMA 7's newest telenovela, "Kung Mawawala Ka."

He got so frustrated and even thought of quitting although, he said, "the money was good and the exposure was great."

A year after his INQUIRER visit, Cody now has two albums tucked under his belt, and is promoting the second, "I'd Love You to Want Me." The album is produced by Icon Records and is distributed by Star Records.

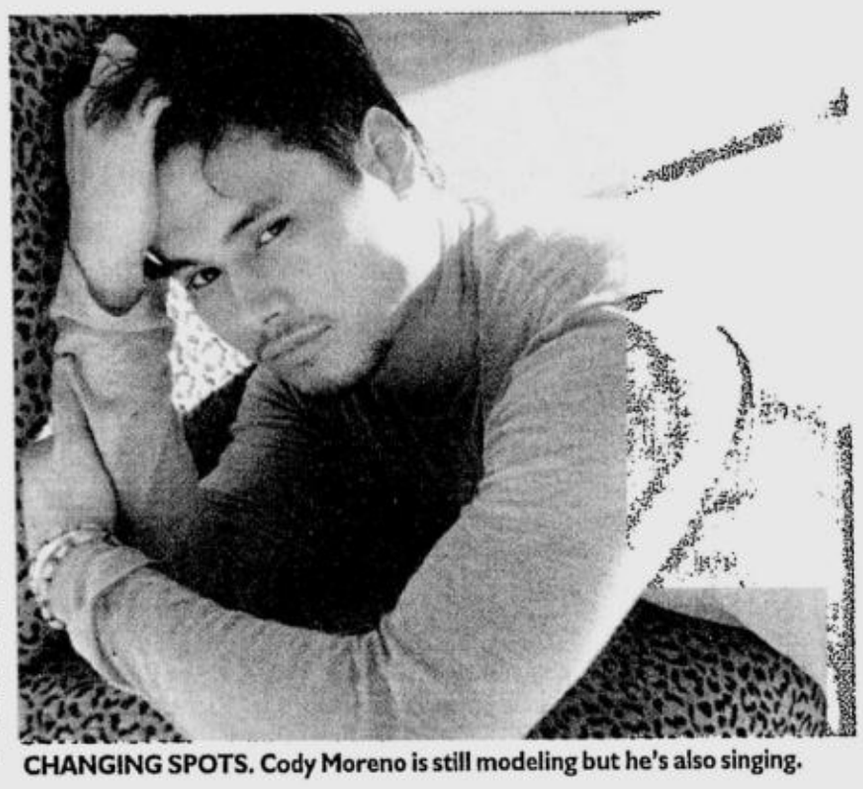
"It's pure good music," he says of his album. He says his sound, influenced by 15 years of living in the US, sets him apart from other Filipino pop singers. "Hear western pop culture from someone who actually lived there," he says.

Cody was the first Asian member of Camerata, a performing group he joined while he was in high school in California. In college, he won a scholarship grant from the Herb Alpert Foundation after singing the Basil Valdez original, "You," before a panel of all-American judges. The music grant is given yearly to talented youths in dance, visual arts, music, theater and film.

He says he feels proud that music lovers of all classes can listen to his songs. "I think my album is for everyone, from A to D. It's not *baduy*, it's also not too *sosi* (upscale)," explains Cody.

Popularized by Ronald Kent Lavoie (popularly known as Lobo), Cody's carrier track, "I'd Love You to Want Me," was originally intended for a local boy band. "Icon Records liked the way the song came out when I sang it," he says.

It didn't require much effort for Cody to impress his producers because he has been singing since he was four. He considers Kenny Logins, George Michael, Brian McKnight and Enrique Iglesias as his musical influences.


CHANGING SPOTS. Cody Moreno is still modeling but he's also singing.

Cody considers his second offering a "repackaged album" since it contains some of the songs in the self-titled album he released in Guam last year.

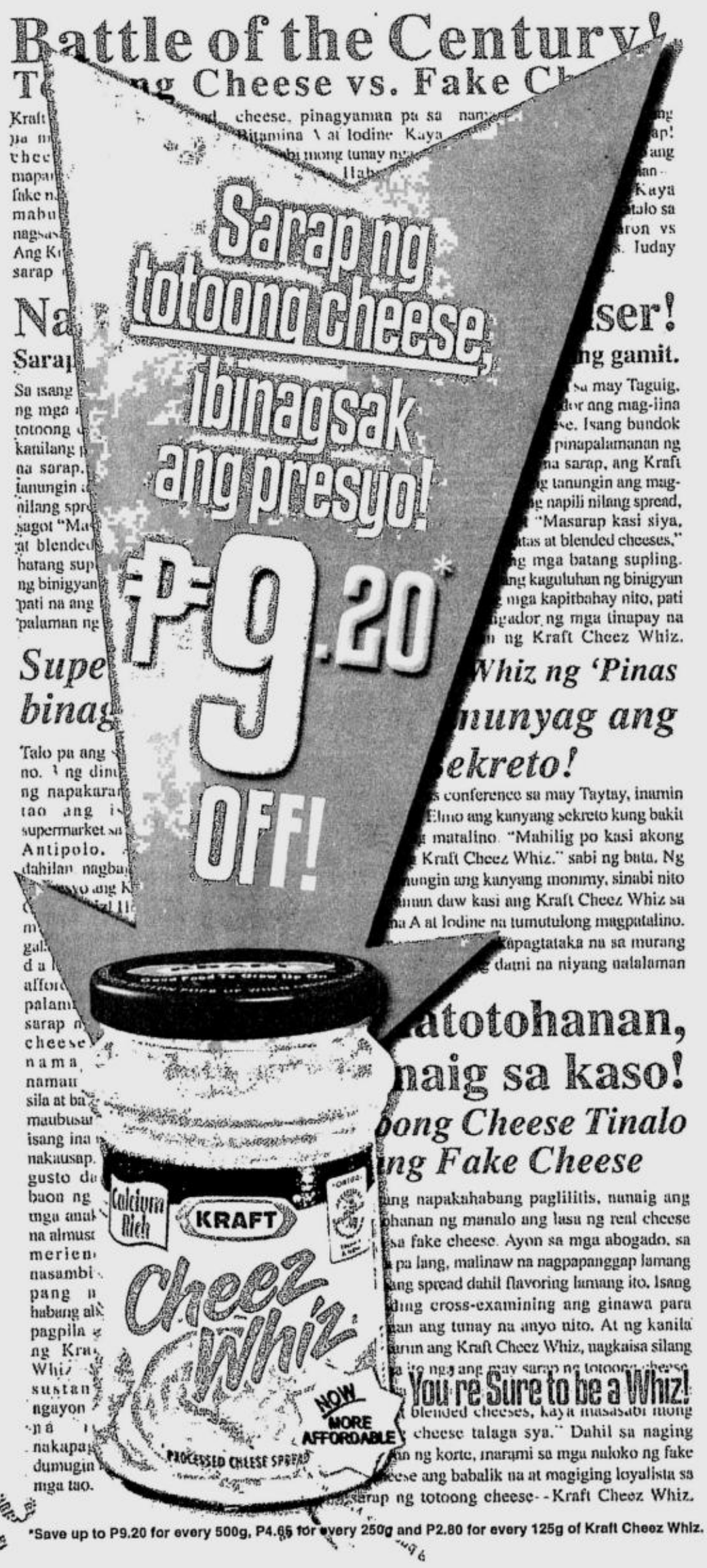
He says songs like "Void in My Heart," "Bb. Pilipina," and the Lito Camo ballad "Nakikiusap" delighted his Filipino audience abroad. "The first album was really intended for Filipinos in the US," he explains.

He says he hopes to collaborate with the likes of Martin Nievera, Gary Valenciano and Regine Velasquez for his next albums.

Cody's family initially wanted him to have a career in medicine. His mother is a nurse and two of his sisters are pharmacists while another is a therapist.

"But I know medicine will take a lot of schooling," he says. "I wanted to finish school right away so I could pursue singing."

Now everything is starting to fall into place for Cody. He is a regular host of IBC 13's daily noontime show "Lunch Break Muna," he performs in mall shows and provincial tours and he has just returned from a singing US tour.



Suspense-drama thriller in real time

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

"24," RPN 9, Mondays, 9 p.m.

AMBITIOUS.

That's easily the word that best describes the suspense-drama series "24".

REVIEW

Created by Joel Surnow and Robert Cochran, and co-executive produced by Ron Howard, "24" tells a whole story in 24 episodes, each spanning an hour of a busy single day. Paced in "real time," five seemingly unrelated stories interlace through the central figure of Jack Bauer (Kiefer Sutherland), who heads a counter-terrorist unit. He's assigned to oversee extra safety measures for the primary elections, which begins at seven in the morning in California.

The pilot episode started the series at midnight. Jack's headstrong daughter Kim (Elisha Cuthbert) sneaks out of the house shortly before her father's called to duty, and his wife, Teri (Leslie Hope) begins looking for her.

Meanwhile, African-American presidential candidate Senator David Palmer (Dennis Haysbert) excitedly prepares for the elections with his wife and staff. Unbeknownst to him, people in the intelligence community discover information that he's targeted for assassination.

And aboard a 747 airplane, a photographer covering the political situation is being seduced by a seemingly doltish woman who's actually after his identification cards and security passes.

Lively parts

These scenes are deftly edited and interlocked in a manner that allows the viewer to become privy to important, lively parts. In true real time, there will almost always be lulling moments.

Jack has a reputation for unearthing moles in his organization, and he's shown risking his position and freedom to confirm his suspicions regarding a possible double agent. Jack also isn't above hacking databases to discover the said agent's shady transactions, and this power at his disposal is hesitantly used to uncover his daughter's e-mail password.

Teri is joined by a supposed father of Kim's friend, who claims that his daughter also sneaked out shortly after midnight.

Simultaneously, Senator Palmer furiously denies an unrevealed, last-minute allegation by a media person over the phone, while developments among the airborne characters are as well. The unidentified woman manages to have sex with the photographer, eventually bombs the plane, and parachutes to safety.

Intriguing plot

That's one intriguing, plot-filled hour down, 23 to go.

Given the nature of the show, one can't help but second-guess how the entire story will unravel, and how cleanly it ends or not. It's clearly stated in the scenes and dialogue that these events aren't random, that these are fragments of a bigger plan. The clock is shown occasionally before and after commercial breaks, as well as the momentary splitting of the screen into three to four divisions, to show the multiple goings-on with the other characters.

SUTHERLAND. There's life after the movies.

Sutherland proves that there's life after the movies as he plays the "family man with an above-average job" credibly for the small screen. The rest of the cast, while relatively not as famous as the lead actor, give concentrated performances that make their respective characters blend smoothly with the story.

E-mail scenario

The show's catchphrase should be "Trust No One," but that's already taken. The issue of trust is used as a mechanism as Jack gains

SUSPENSE-DRAMA/ p. A20

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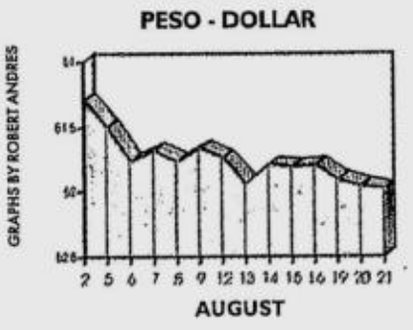
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2002
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Strong exports seen to bolster peso

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 51.985 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 21, 2002

¥ 118.02 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 21, 2002

GOLD: $308.40/308.90
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 21, 2002

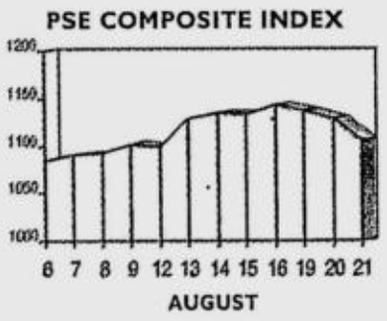
STOCK MARKET

Shares down 2.1%

SHARES closed 2.1 percent lower yesterday due to growing concerns about the budget deficit and fears of higher interest rates, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 24.15 points to 1,104.73.

"Some people have taken the opportunity to take profit given the negative stream of news. Given that there's not much to look forward to in the next few days, investors are taking the opportunity to get out," said Mike Ordinanza of PCI Capital. *AFP*



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Clarissa S. Batino

EVEN with the uncertain outlook on a US recovery, the government is expecting a 10-percent growth in exports in 2003 to $36.781 billion from projected receipts of $33.437 billion this year.

Imports are expected to improve by 11 percent next year to $34.734 billion from an estimated $31.292 billion in 2002.

Exporters agreed with the government's targets this year and next and said the numbers were achievable despite mixed signals on the recovery of the US economy, which has remained the country's biggest export market.

This year, the government said exports would grow by 4 percent and imports by 6 percent from a contraction of 15.6 percent and 5.8 percent in 2001.

With the promising outlook on exports, government officials were confident that the local currency would stabilize next year as strong export revenues help prop up the peso as companies engaged in the business convert their earnings into the local currency.

"The recent volatility in the peso is temporary. In general, there is a lack of confidence with the world economy aggravated by concerns on Latin America. As a result, there is again a flight to quality," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The peso yesterday closed at 51.985 to a dollar from P51.96 on Tuesday even as regional currencies like the yen recovered. Traders said the market was "sticky" at the 52:$1 level because of concerns on the budget deficit, especially with expectations that the government would announce today that it had breached the P130-billion full-year target as of July.

The central bank chief added that negative news on the local front like the rising budget deficit and resignation of key officials did not help the peso.

With nervous financial markets, Buenaventura said local monetary authorities would likely keep the BSP overnight rates, used by banks in pricing their loans, at current levels.

"We may have to stay where we are, which is not bad because we are low enough as it is," said the BSP chief, referring to the 7 percent for overnight borrowing and 9.25 percent for overnight lending, which were the lowest in 10 years.

Donald Dee, an officer of the Exporters Confederation of the Philippines, said the 2003 targets of the government on exports and imports were both realistic and doable.

He said despite the uncertain recovery of the US market, the biggest export items like electronics and garments have showed signs of significant recovery. Electronics account for about 56 percent of total exports.

"The targets next year are very doable. This year, we are on track with the government's expectations, if not better. There is even a chance that the export sector could overshoot the 4-percent (growth) target," Dee said.

What should push the performance of the electronics sector, he said, was that it was ending the three-year cycle of slow growth. "Usually, there is a three- to four-year cycle before companies would upgrade their computers and next year would be the time for them to buy again," he explained.

Gov't urged to plug tax remittance loopholes

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE LANDBANK tax scam has raised concerns among businessmen on the integrity of the government's tax remittance system because of the many loopholes available in diverting the billions of pesos in corporate taxes to unscrupulous hands.

Businessman Raul T. Concepcion said the Landbank tax scam—where tax payments made were not remitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue—had eroded the confidence of the business community.

Concepcion said the Bankers Association of the Philippines should now hold an emergency meeting to come up with safeguard measures that would ensure the integrity of the tax remittances.

He also urged the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to come up with policies that would address this problem and collaborate more closely with the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Treasury.

GOV'T/ B4

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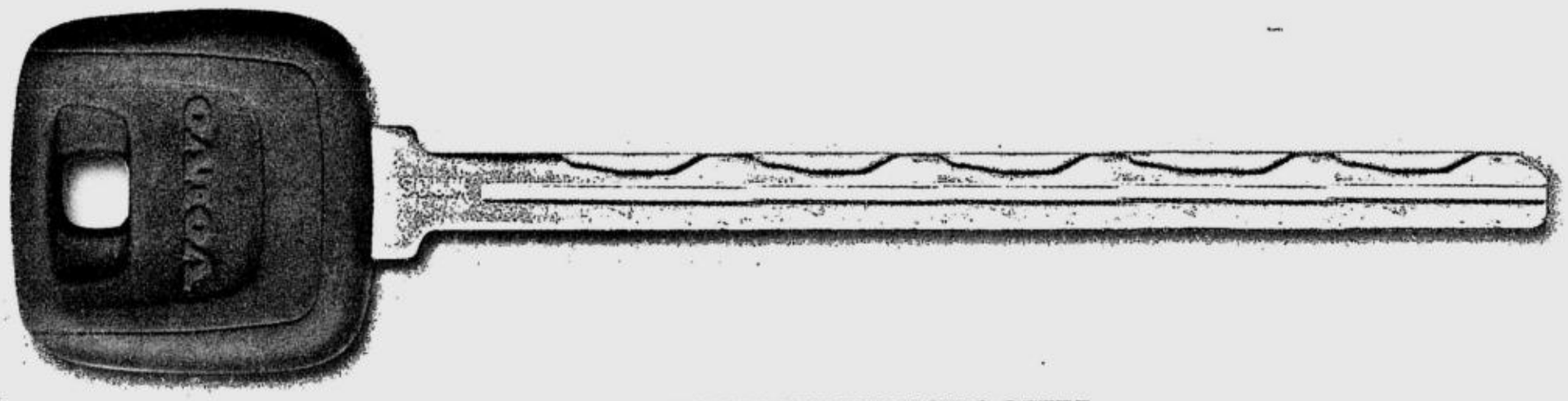

75TH ANNIVERSARY FINANCING OFFER

MODEL	LCP	%DP	DP	12 MOS.	18 MOS.	24 MOS.	36 MOS.	48 MOS.	60 MOS.
S40	P1,595,000	20%	319,000	109,439	75,207	58,697	41,690	33,264	29,227
V40	P1,695,000	20%	339,000	116,583	80,110	62,529	44,413	35,434	31,134
S80	P2,625,000	20%	525,000	182,998	125,744	98,140	69,709	55,620	48,871
S80 T6	P3,800,000	20%	760,000	266,913	183,397	143,147	101,672	81,124	71,278
S60	P2,195,000	20%	439,000	152,290	104,648	81,676	58,012	46,289	40,669
S60 T5	P2,595,000	20%	519,000	180,855	124,272	96,993	68,895	54,971	48,299
V70	P2,600,000	20%	520,000	181,203	124,523	97,188	69,028	55,077	48,392
XC70	P2,945,000	20%	589,000	205,836	141,452	110,399	78,416	62,567	54,974

*You can also avail of other downpayment terms (25% to 50%).

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*Fortune Magazine, July 2001

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SEC says Gokongwei assurance 'sufficient for the time being'

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has accepted taipan John Gokongwei Jr.'s clarification that his flagship holding company, JG Summit Holdings Inc., is not involved in his $925-million deal to buy First Pacific Co. Ltd.'s telecom and property interests in the Philippines.

In a letter to Gokongwei counsel Perry Pe, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said Gokongwei's and JG Summit's explanation was "sufficient to clarify the matter for the time being."

Bautista, however, requested that Pe advise his client "to take more care in reviewing whatever document will ultimately be disclosed, in order to avoid misunderstanding and incidents."

Last month, Gokongwei reiterated that JG Summit was not a party to his $925-million deal with Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd., a fact that, he said, was "inadvertently missed" in disclosure papers sent to regulators in New York and Manila.

In a letter, Pe said there were erasures in the copy of the memorandum of agreement sent to the Securities and Exchange Commission, as the Gokongwei group and First Pacific had to "rush" their deal to comply with the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

"The whole rush was because First Pacific had to disclose the deal to the appropriate regulatory agency—the Hong Kong Stock Exchange—the following day," Pe said.

On June 4, First Pacific signed a memorandum of agreement relinquishing its controlling stakes in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Bonifacio Land Corp. to a $925-million joint venture that the Gokongwei group would control.

Last week, the SEC ordered the Gokongwei group to explain conflicting and misleading information in the disclosure papers it submitted to regulators in New York and Manila.

In the copy of the memorandum of agreement sent to the SEC, the words "JG Summit Holdings Inc." were erased in the last page, although it was stated in the first page that the deal was between JG Summit and First Pacific.

Government regulators pointed out that as a listed firm, JG Summit, if it had been a party to the deal with First Pacific, should have publicly disclosed details of the transaction.

Cement makers, importers fighting for scraps

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CEMENT imports have virtually dried up in the past few months due to the retention of a provisional duty of P20.60 per 40-kilogram bag, seasonal low demand and cutthroat competition.

Prices are so low that at a landed cost of P110 a bag, it makes no sense to bring in cement from abroad unless meant for Japanese contractors like Southern Cross Cement Corp.

But have imports stopped being a threat, albeit temporarily, to the local industry? No, according to a source from Cemex SA de CV who claims that another Taiwanese firm has replaced Taiwan Cement Corp. as the leading importer of cement in its lesser form—clinker.

The Cemex source claims that Lucky Cement Corp. has been bringing in clinker from Indonesia which has the effect of circumventing the P20.60 provisional duty imposed by the Department of Trade and Industry on cement imports.

Clinker, which is levied a duty of only 3 percent, is considered by experts as 95 percent cement since it only needs gypsum to make it the real deal.

A source from Lucky Cement says clinker importation is a legitimate part of its business, and that the company pays its duties.

The Cemex source says clinker imports will give more ammunition to Lucky Cement to undercut its rivals and bring the price war first from the Visayas and Mindanao to the lucrative markets of Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog.

DOCK workers unload bags of cement in a pier. Cement prices are so low that it makes no sense to bring in cement from abroad unless meant for Japanese contractors.

SPECIAL REPORT

Money to be made

A price monitoring report from the trade department showed that prices dropped slightly to P120 a bag in Metro Manila and P125 in Southern Tagalog this month from P125 and P135 at the start of the year, as some of the cheap cement from the Visayas and Mindanao started trickling in.

A local trader says there is a lot of money to be made even at P70 a bag considering that it only costs roughly P22 to P35 a bag to ship cement to Manila from the south.

The Cemex source said while an imminent incursion by Lucky Cement is the main concern of Fortune Cement Corp. and Republic Cement Corp., the Cebu-based Apo Cement Corp. may also get hurt in the fallout because some of its cheap cement may be dumped in their territory.

Taiheyo's Grand Cement Manufacturing Corp. and Lucky Cement have a combined capacity of a little over 2 million metric tons, or 17 percent of the estimated Philippine market of 12 million tons, which industry experts believe is enough to make a dent in the operations of local cement players.

The Cemex source said the price war instigated by two foreign cement firms unveiled the importers' true intent of forcing local players to go down on their knees to control the market.

This was denied by a Taiheyo source, who said the price war only proved that cement could be sold at much lower prices if players were competing instead of conniving with each other.

Cement imports

The Cemex source says whether it is war or peace in the local front, cement manufacturers still have to face to the much bigger threat of cement imports.

The Philippines, despite having an excess capacity of 14.2 million, remains a prime target for cement surpluses in offshore markets such as Thailand, 32.9 million metric tons; Indonesia, 26.6 million metric tons; Japan, 15.6 million metric tons; Malaysia, 13.7 metric tons; South Korea, 12.9 metric tons; China, 120 million metric tons; and India, 17.5 million metric tons.

The Philippines has the most open market in the region with its 3-percent tariff for Asean cement and 5 percent for non-Asean compared with other Asian countries that charge between 5 and 100 percent. Thailand has 5 and 10 percent; Malaysia has 20 and 50 percent; Vietnam has 40 percent; Cambodia has 20 percent; and Bangladesh, 100 percent.

The Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. explained that Philippine cement firms cannot compete with foreign imports even if their plants are running efficiently.

Philcemcor says local producers have a higher break-even point because they have to recover both fixed and variable costs, while foreign exports of cement are sold only to recover variable costs.

Once the provisional duty on cement, which adds P20.60 per bag on the price of imports, is lifted, imports should come flooding back to wreak more havoc on the local industry.

Non-tariff barriers

Traders claim, however, that cement manufacturers need not fret too much about the threat of imports because the trade department has been working silently putting up non-tariff barriers aimed at making it more difficult and costly to bring in cement from abroad.

A source from Taiheyo says the DTI has ordered all cement imports to wait for up to 28 days before their release in order to put them through product quality tests.

The source said traders opposed the mandate because it would unreasonably hold up their shipments considering tests could be finished within a week.

Traders have proposed that initial testing be made in accredited testing centers in other countries such as Indonesia.

Some sectors, however, opposed offshore pre-testing because there was no assurance that what was being tested was the same as the cement being loaded in cargoes bound for the Philippines.

The trade department has also required cement importers to label their cement bags with the source of their cement.

Since most traders import from several sources abroad, constant revisions in the markings of cement bags, plus additional warehousing costs arising from the delays in the release of shipments, should lead to as much as P20 in additional costs for each bag of cement.

While these non-tariff barriers may not be a concern because of the prevailing low prices, traders said this would be a problem, especially if the combatants agreed to a truce and end the price war.

The trader said the government should relax its import rules and allow more cement imports to ensure that prices would not shoot up once the players started acting friendly with each other again.

The Taiheyo source alleged that apart from non-tariff barriers, the "Big 3" local players—Cemex, Lafarge and Holcim—which controlled 80 percent of the local market, had also taken over cement industries in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia to seal all nearby cement supplies and force traders to go to more distant suppliers.

The Cemex source said this charge was untrue and part of the cement importers' spurious claim of a global and local cartel that they had yet to prove.

The Cemex source said the ongoing price attrition among players should disprove claims of collusion and market segmentation.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date August 6, 2002
Reference No.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Project: Sp01.OPGWNT.Le-0331, Installation of Optical fiber Groundwire (OPGW), Joint Boxes and Accessories for the Naga - Tayabas Line
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all construction plant, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TRANSCO), installing complete the Optical Fiber GroundWire (OPGW) for the Naga - Tayabas Line.
3. Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid: P 11,583,419.00
4. Application for eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB.
   License Particular: Category B - Specialty In Electrical Works
   Registration Particular: Medium A - Electrical Works
5. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting August 14, 2002 at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, Building No. 2, NPC-OBC, National Power Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-23-08 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P 800.00 per copy.
6. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms documents and statement shall be on or before September 3, 2002 and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
8. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) R. T. BACANI
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI--Aug. 14, 18 & 22, 2002)

PSBank reports 83% jump in first-half income to P144M

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank reported yesterday that its net income in the first six months of the year grew 83 percent to P144 million from P65.5 million in the same period last year.

In a statement, PSBank also said its deposit funds grew 45 percent, or an additional P6.10 billion.

PSBank is the thrift unit of No. 1 lender Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

The bank said the increase in deposit funds followed the opening of 15 new branches that brought its network to 103 nationwide.

The deposit funds were used to extend customer loans that amounted to P1.7 billion, 14 percent more than the amount lent in the same period last year.

PSBank said as a result of its decision to refocus its strategy to consumer loans, auto loans grew 52 percent, mortgages by 101 percent and personal loans by 79 percent.

PSBank said as of end-June, its non-performing loan ratio stood at 10.50 percent of its portfolio, well below the average of 14.30 percent for the saving bank sector.

The thrift bank said it added over P51 million in provisions to maintain a 50-percent coverage of its bad loans ratio.

"As challenging as the environment has been, PSBank continues to position itself to meet the growing demands of the consumer business," PSBank president Pascual Garcia said.

He added that the bank redoubled its effort to build momentum for growth and was able to increase market share despite difficult market conditions and heightened competition in the industry.

PSBank had P24.8 billion in resources as of end-June, making it the second largest savings bank in the country.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, August 21, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	16.75	17	215,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	95	95	95	95	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45	43.5	43.5	122,100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	26.5	734,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36	36	34	34.5	232,700
Philippine National Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31	14,700
Security Bank Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	600
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	14,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	160,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1210	1210	1210	1210	710
Sun Life Financial Serv.	920	920	920	920	2,740
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.51	0.51	3,540,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	485	487.5	485	485	11,560
Ipeople Inc.	0.72	0.75	0.72	0.74	250,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	1,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	2,000
Piltel	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,180,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	300	300	297.5	297.5	107,710
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	13,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	12,300
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	29.5	28	28	383,400
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.64	1.64	456,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.16	270,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.46	2.46	2.42	2.42	1,301,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	30,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.63	0.64	0.59	0.6	2,890,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	163,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	1,040,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	7,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	372,500
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	350,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48.5	49	507,700
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54	52.5	53	111,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	40,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.2	198,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	167,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	14,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.225	21,500,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.06	0.0675	0.06	0.0675	600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	124,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12.25	12.25	11.75	12	1,146,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	400,000
Ionics Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.75	54,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	195,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.39	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.235	2,330,000
Music Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.74	0.72	0.74	570,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	590,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Pryce Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,700,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.6	8	7.6	8	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.31	60,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	602,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	17,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.6	5.7	6,541,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	112,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	750,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	3,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.19	2,360,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.86	1.82	1.82	12,769,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.7	1.78	240,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.22	1,090,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
SM Development Corp.	0.87	0.91	0.87	0.91	170,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8	3,265,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	600,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	120,000

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Estates Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 23, 2:30 p.m.

* * *

IONICS Inc. has sold its land and manufacturing plant to **Remec Manufacturing Philippines Inc.** and **Microwave Ventures Inc.**

* * *

REYNOLDS Philippines Corp. has announced the resignation of Jorge Navarra as a director.

* * *

SALCON Power Corp. has bought 400,000 of its own shares at P1.74 each on Aug. 16.

* * *

ASIAN Terminals Inc. has announced the resignation of Roger Davies as a director.

* * *

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. has identified Monico Jacob as the company's independent director.

* * *

SM Development Corp. has disclosed that its independent directors are Andres Gatmaitan, Octavio Espiritu and Ricardo Romulo.

* * *

TRADING of **Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp.** shares remained suspended yesterday after the company failed to pay the fines it incurred for the late submission of reportorial requirements. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

Aug. 21, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.020512	1.000000	52.0620
Japan	Yen	0.008595	0.008422	0.4385
United Kingdom	Pound	1.562098	1.530700	79.6913
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130837	0.128207	6.6747
Switzerland	Franc	0.681159	0.667468	34.7497
Canada	Dollar	0.651669	0.638570	33.2452
Singapore	Dollar	0.583650	0.571919	29.7752
Australia	Dollar	0.557292	0.546090	28.4305
Bahrain	Dinar	2.707073	2.652661	138.1028
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272122	0.266652	13.8824
Brunei	Dollar	0.581986	0.570288	29.6903
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024338	0.023849	1.2416
UAE	Dirham	0.277849	0.272264	14.1746
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000844	0.0439
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.979900	51.0156
Argentina	Real	0.281909	0.276243	14.3818
Brazil	Real	0.331228	0.324570	16.8978
Denmark	Kroner	0.134623	0.131917	6.8679
India	Rupee	0.021046	0.020623	1.0737
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268592	0.263193	13.7024
Mexico	New Peso	0.104283	0.102187	5.3201
New Zealand	Dollar	0.478821	0.469197	24.4273
Norway	Kroner	0.136188	0.133451	6.9477
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017180	0.016835	0.8765
South Africa	Rand	0.095268	0.093353	4.8601
Sweden	Kroner	0.108889	0.106700	5.5550
Syria	Pound	0.021899	0.021459	1.1172
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030193	0.029586	1.5403
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000734	0.000719	0.0374

UCPB pushes bid to take in new investor

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT-RUN United Coconut Planters Bank is seeking to close before the year ends a deal that would allow the entry of a new majority investor and bring in fresh capital, bank president Edward Go said yesterday.

Go told reporters at the sidelines of an economic briefing at the Ateneo de Manila University that UCPB and the Presidential Commission on Good Government would resume discussions on the bank's recapitalization next week when PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac returns from abroad.

He said the draft memorandum that would need approval from parties with claims in the bank—Marcos ally and San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation Inc. (Cocofed) and the government—was still pending with the PCGG.

"I foresee that whoever comes in must come in as a majority partner of the bank," Go said, albeit clarifying that UCPB was not for sale.

It was earlier estimated that UCBP wanted to raise as much as P10 billion in fresh capital, but Go said it would be up to a financial adviser to analyze the bank's capital requirements.

Asked whether a financial adviser had been tapped, Go said: "We are still waiting for the memorandum of agreement among the parties. That will be our mandate to do anything."

Go noted that it would be difficult to bring in a new investor that would infuse additional capital if it was not clear which party had the authority now that claims from different parties were still under litigation by the country's graft court Sandiganbayan.

"It's hard because who will agree to invest if you don't know who has the authority to approve a buy-in?" Go noted.

UCPB, a mid-sized commercial bank with license to invest in non-allied undertakings, needs to raise fresh funds to meet the capital requirements of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Its capital funds amounted to about P5.2 billion at the end of the first quarter of this year, down from more than P10 billion a year earlier. UCPB's capital base at end-March was down by about P500 million from the fourth quarter of 2001.

Taiwan firm, Tipco sign $90-M power plant deal

TAIPEI—A unit of Taiwan's Formosa Plastics Group said yesterday it plans to build a $90-million power plant in the Philippines in a joint venture with local firm Trust International Paper Corp. (Tipco).

Formosa Heavy Industries Corp. signed a memorandum of understanding with Tipco, the Philippines' sole paper exporter, on Tuesday to build a coal-fueled power plant in Pampanga, north of Manila, a Formosa spokesman said.

"Our initial plan is for Formosa Heavy Industries to take a 75-percent stake in the venture, with Tipco taking the remainder," he said.

The deal was signed by Formosa Plastics executive vice president K.H. Wu and Tipco chair and CEO Elon Ting in the presence of Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II who led a Philippine delegation to Taiwan for the 10th Taipei-Manila Joint Economic Conference (JEC).

Cheap electricity from Formosa is expected to make Tipco more competitive in the export market, considering that electricity bills eat up a quarter of a paper mill's production costs.

The Philippines has the highest cost of power in Asia, second only to Japan. Tipco exports roughly $60 million annually or 70 percent of its production to Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Singapore, Japan, India, Thailand and Nigeria. *AFP*

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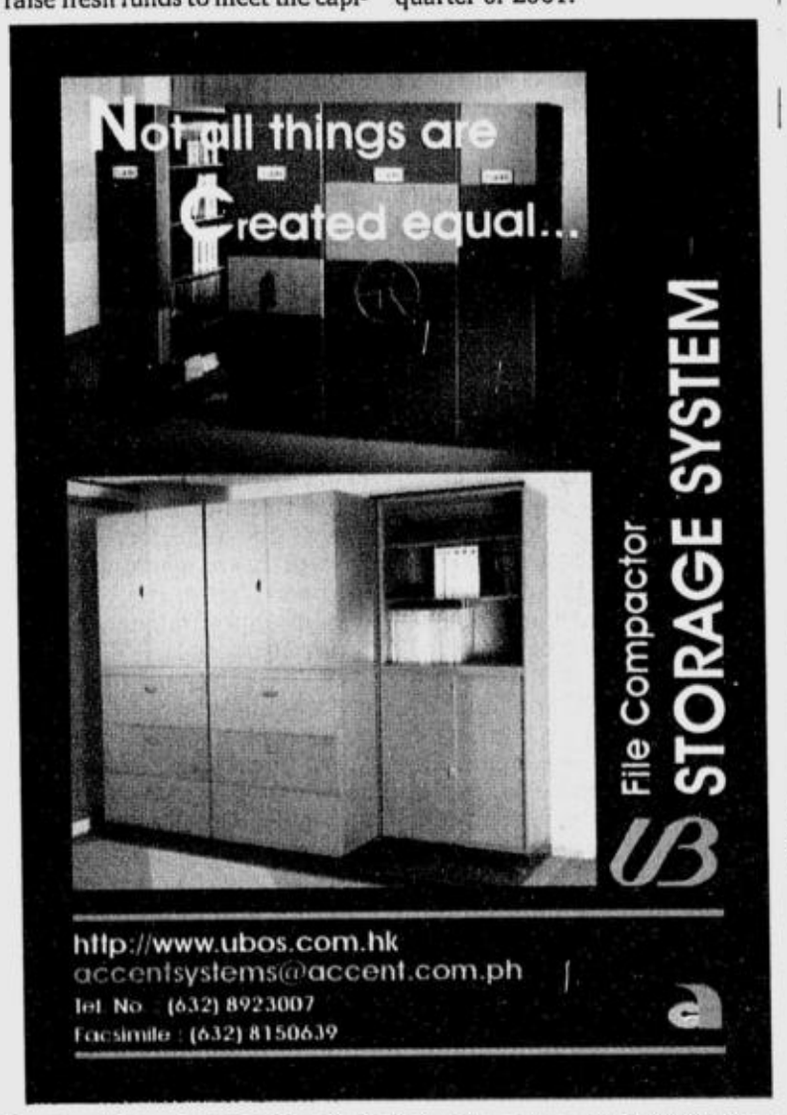

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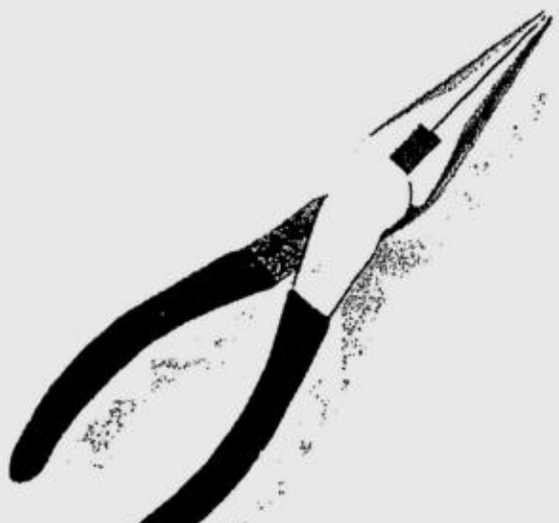

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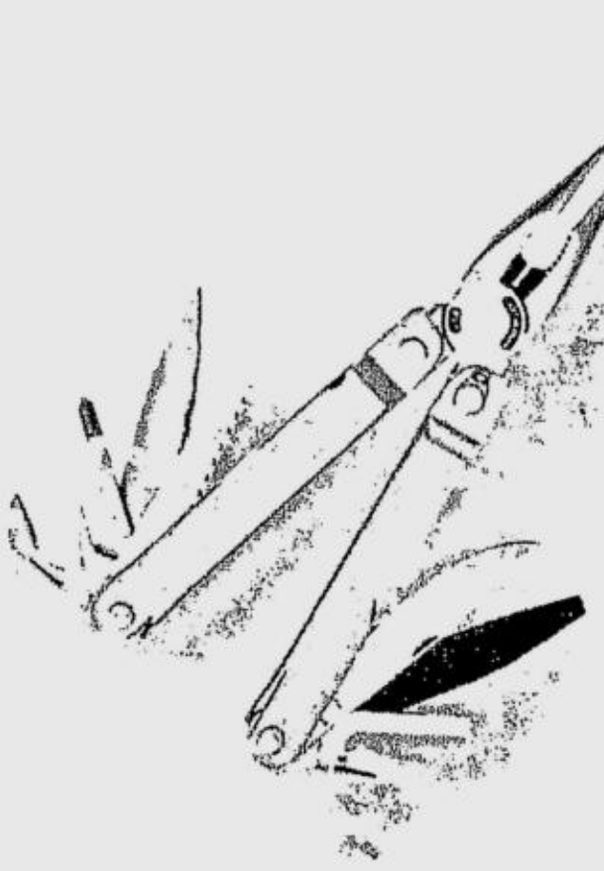

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WIPES OUT DEFICIENCY

US-Singapore firm acquires Asian Diamond

By Elena R. Torrijos

AN AMERICAN-SINGAPORE company has acquired a major stake in pre-need firm Asian Diamond Plans Inc.

An industry source said in an interview that the Sovereign Group acquired a major stake in Asian Diamond after it bought the shares of major shareholders led by Damaso Magbual.

Sovereign was expected to raise Asian Diamond Plan's paid-up capital to P100 million from P50 million to allow the company to sell three pre-need plan types—pension, education and life or memorial plans.

Under the new rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, pre-need companies with a minimum paid-up capital of P50 million but less than P75 million may sell only one plan, two plans if the company has a minimum P75 million but less than P100 million and three plans if the paid-up capital is at least P100 million.

At least P13.5 million of the capital infusion would be used to cover Asian Diamond's trust fund deficiency, which leaves only leading pre-need firm College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. with a deficiency.

CAP has reported a P2.5-billion deficiency in its trust fund and was given by the SEC until end-September to submit documents to support its proposed scheme to cover the deficiency.

Meanwhile, Eternal Plans of the Cabangon-Chua family has reportedly been in discussions to acquire Pension and Retirement Plans, following Legacy Plans, which acquired Consolidated Plans and All Asia Plans.

The mergers were attributed partly to the SEC's increase in the minimum capital of pre-need firms.

There are currently 45 licensed pre-need plan companies in the country of which 23 have a minimum paid-up capital of P100 million. Only 19 offer three plan types.

Since the first pre-need product entered the Philippine market some 36 years ago, the pre-need industry has grown into a billion-peso business with P38 billion worth of plans sold in 2001 alone.

iVantage sells money remittance subsidiary

By Doris C. Dumlao

TECHNOLOGY holding firm iVantage Corp. has sold its shares in iRemit Inc., a wholly owned money remittance business put up last year, for P100 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, iVantage said it had sold the shares to JTKC Equities Inc., Surewell Equities Inc. and JPSA Global Services Co.

JTKC Equities is an investment holding company owned by the family of two directors of iVantage. The disclosure said those directors had abstained from the deliberation and voting on the sale of iRemit shares.

Surewell Equities is the investment holding company of Bansan Choa, iRemit's joint partner for its Hong Kong operations while JPSA Global Services Co. is owned by Gilbert Gaw, Choa's business partner who is engaged in the delivery service, among others.

"The buyers agreed to purchase iRemit from iVantage at the latter's cost of investment and disregarded losses incurred during the previous year of operations of iRemit," the disclosure said.

iVantage transformed itself into a technology holding company in 2000 when it bought into a consortium of six companies controlled by the group of businessman William Chua.

The consortium consists of software developer Jupiter Systems Inc., Philippine Internet search engine Yehey.com, computer distributor Wordtext Systems Inc., systems integrator Nexus Technologies Inc., Internet consulting firm WS Fiesta Online and medical transcription software developer IPD Systems Inc.

Prior to its transformation into an IT firm, the company was an unprofitable oil exploration firm.

Chua's group now owns 20 percent of iVantage while the public owns another 20 percent of the shares. Original Vantage principals Benito Tiu, Hans Sy and Willy Ocier own the remaining 60 percent.

Toyota to expand Sta. Rosa manufacturing plant

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp., the country's largest vehicle assembler, is expanding its Sta. Rosa, Laguna, manufacturing plant, as it gears up to expand its production of auto parts for export under the Asean Free Trade Area.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority has approved Toyota's application to add 53 more hectares to its 25-hectare Laguna factory. The project is expected to cost P50 million.

The Toyota plant is classified as a special economic zone, which makes it eligible for Peza incentives such as duty-free importation of capital equipment, tax breaks and preferred tax rates.

The expansion plan has been on the drawing board for years. Toyota was forced to defer its expansion because of the 1997 financial crisis, which pulled down industry sales.

A source said Toyota was planning to produce more auto parts in the country after its current operations—transmissions manufacturing—became the choice source of Toyota manufacturing plants abroad.

The source said the company was still considering what auto part to produce in the country for sale initially to the region.

Toyota exported some $250 million worth of transmission parts last year.

The expansion is also part of Toyota's plan to ship out fully assembled units out of its local plant, although it is more inclined to export more auto parts that have higher local value added.

Local assemblers are racing to meet the Department of Trade and Industry's goal of exporting completely built up units from the Philippines.

So far, Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. has started shipments of CBUs, while Honda Cars Philippines Inc. has signified its intention of shipping CBUs in the medium term.

DBP says first-half income expanded 14% to P984M

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines said yesterday its net income in the first half of the year grew 14 percent to P984 million from the comparative level recorded last year.

In a statement, DBP president Simon Paterno also announced two initiatives to improve the bank's economic development and financial strengths.

For one, the state-owned bank has formed a new unit to focus exclusively on development financing and increase the involvement of its network in development banking.

The second initiative is to actively manage the bank's non-performing loan portfolio.

Following the moves of its banking counterparts and in anticipation of the special purpose asset vehicle bill pending in Congress, DBP will try to maximize recoveries from its NPL portfolio.

Paterno said the bank would aggressively set aside provisions for probable losses in the second half of the year.

"We need to ensure that DBP, as an institution, is protected, and we will increase our loan reserves. This will provide DBP the cushion that will balance the additional risks it takes on as it pursues it development banking mandate," Paterno said.

DBP said its bad loans ratio fell to 13.08 in the second quarter from 13.68 percent in the first quarter.

Paterno also reported that the bank had P55.77 billion in funds this year to support development projects and activities available through its wholesale and retail lending operations.

More than 80 percent of its funds are from multilateral and bilateral institutions such as the World Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Asian Development Bank and Kreditanstalt fur Weideraufbau of Germany.

DBP said that for the first half of this year, it approved loans amounting to P24.7 billion involving 2,258 accounts.

The bank, Paterno said, would continue to maintain a more balanced loan portfolio that caters to SMEs and large, strategic industries such as telecommunications, transportation, power, among others.

Gov't urged . . .

From page B1

If the government could not ensure a fool-proof system, Concepcion said a senior official of the government bank and the Bureau of Internal Revenue should issue a written authenticated certification that the payments have been received and duly remitted to the BIR before a company makes its next monthly payment.

At present, only government banks are authorized to accept tax payments. Some companies use universal banks and private commercial banks as conduit to the government banks for the transmittal of their tax payments but they are not accountable for the integrity of the payments received by the government.

Aries Espinosa, Editor

People, Events & Products

AXIS UNLIMITED LAUNCHES PRODUCTS

Axis Unlimited Corp. (AUC), a distributor of premium, world-class quality nutraceutical and dermocosmetic products, recently introduced their newest line of health and beauty products for the whole family. Among its honored guests and speakers include (from left) nutraceutical division marketing coordinator Deborah Reyno-Gido, consultant Dr. Senen Reyes, nutraceutical division consultant Dr. Librado Santiago, AUC president Dr. Cecile Pelayo, dermocosmetic division marketing head Analisa Arambulo-Jambalos and consultant Dr. Allan Asuncion. At the forefront of AUC's *nutraceutical* line is Biorex, an extremely beneficial health supplement in warding off body diseases, while its dermocosmetic line consists of skin care for infants under the brand name Idibimbo and adults under Soagen.

Globe Telecom supports 4th World Meeting of Families, offers 'Vatican Texter' mobile application

IN SUPPORT of the 4th World Meeting of Families, Globe Telecom joins the Catholic Church in raising funds for the staging of the momentous event. One of the anticipated highlights of the 4th World Meeting of Families, which will be held in Manila on January 2003, is the scheduled visit of the Pope Paul II to lead the occasion.

Globe, through its "Vatican Texter" campaign, has lined up a number of mobile applications from Aug. 15 to Jan. 19, 2003 that will allow subscribers to support the Pope's cause while getting a chance to win prizes.

Globe Handyphone or Touch Mobile subscribers can take part in "Vatican Texter" by sending REG<space>name<space>age<space>gender to 2980. Registration to the service is one-time and, upon registration, all entries sent qualify subscribers to win in the weekly draws and the grand draw.

Among the featured mobile applications in Globe's "Vatican Texter" is the "Unscramble Trivia quiz". To play the game, Globe Handyphone or Touch Mobile subscribers registered to the "Vatican Texter" service should send Play to 2980. The subscriber will receive a trivia question with instructions on how to reply and the word to be unscrambled. The trivia questions deal with topics touching on the Vatican, the Church, the bible, the 4th World Meeting of Families and others.

Another featured mobile application is the "Rally Families for the Pope", in which Globe Handyphone or Touch Mobile subscribers can create their own "families" or "groups" and invite other subscribers to join.

There will be weekly prizes of either a Globe Handyphone or a Touch Mobile phone kit and a grand prize trip to the Vatican for a family of four.

Each text sent is charged P2 for postpaid and P2.50 for prepaid. A portion of the text proceeds will be donated to the 4th World Meeting of Families.

HDMF, SHDA MEMBERS MEET

Members of the Home Development Mutual Fund and Subdivision and Housing Developers Association Inc. Task Force met July 24 to discuss concerns and other collaborative activities to enhance efficiency in the delivery of HDMF end-user housing finance program. Shown during the meeting are (from left) Fely Ramos, SHDA treasurer, Jimmy Fabiana, HDMF deputy CEO, lawyer Romero Federico Quimbo, HDMF president and chief executive officer; Jesus B. Atencio, SHDA national president; lawyer Teofisto L. Guingona III, SHDA chair of the board; Linda Tan, SHDA governor. Standing from left are Santiago F. Ducay, SHDA executive director; Odes Abaño, HDMF vice president; Tess Gonzales, HDMF senior vice president; Emma Faria, HDMF senior vice president; Yolly Akol, HDMF vice president; Malu Alferez, SHDA first vice president; Acela Cantos, HDMF vice president, Leny Zulueta , SHDA administrative officer; Bansan Choa, SHDA auditor and Bing Alvarez, SHDA governor.

5 treats for new Equitable MasterCard cardholders

EQUITABLE MasterCard goes full blast as it launches its new campaign dubbed "Get 5 Treats," giving five rewards to its new cardholders. The five treats include a chance to win P100,000 or Nokia 6310i cellular phones, free membership, free first year annual fee, 500 bonus E-points in the Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards Program, and double E-points for every P50 transaction made.

"The campaign, which runs until Dec. 31, aims to rally new cardholders into making a wise choice when it comes to choosing credit cards. Equitable MasterCard gives that option," says Equitable Card first vice president for card sales and marketing Teresita Tanboliong.

Applications must be submitted on or before Dec. 31. The credit card number of approved Equitable MasterCard cards will serve as the raffle entries during the promotion period.

Five winners of P100,000 each and 55 winners of Nokia 6310i phone kits will be drawn.

Workshops setting up a stoma clinic

TWO workshops on "How to set up a Stoma Clinic" were recently organized by the Philippine Cancer Society in cooperation with the Department of Health and the Philippine Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (PSCRS).

With the objective of creating more awareness of ostomate needs and support for their welfare, the workshops are expected to help bring about better conditions for Philippine ostomates. The workshops are also in connection with the 4th Asian Ostomy Association Conference and 7th House Delegates Meeting which will be held in Manila from Oct. 23 to 26.

Ostomy refers to a type of surgery done when a person has lost normal bladder or bowel function due to disease, injury, birth defect or other conditions. The procedure creates a new opening to eliminate normal body waste. An ostomate is one who has had ostomy surgery. In the Philippines, 90 percent of ostomates are colorectal cancer patients. At present, only the Philippine General Hospital has a Stoma Clinic.

The first workshop was held in Naga City July 6 at the Bicol Medical Center (BMC). The speakers were Dr. Armand Crisostomo, president of PSCRS, Alice Salamanca, Enterostomal Therapy (ET) nurse of Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center and Pedro Alcober, an ostomate. Coordinators of the workshop were Drs. Edgar Esplana, Rudolf Macaroy, Rex Madrigal and Roberto Sarmiento of the BMC.

For the second workshop, the venue was the Cagayan Valley Medical Center in Tuguegarao. The speakers were Dr. Hermogenes Monroy III, colorectal surgeon of the Philippine General Hospital, Nelda Escueta, ET nurse of PGH and Joaquin Palacio, an ostomate.

Workshop coordinators in Tuguegarao were Drs. Emmanuel Acluba, Cagayan Valley Medical Center chief; Frederick Pua, Edgar Peleo of the Department of Health – Region II, Vic Managuelod and Jose Fonacier.

The third workshop was held Aug. 3 at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center. Speakers were Dr. Alberto B. Roxas, PGH-ET Nurse Cristina Presbitero and Joaquin Palacio. Organizers from JRMMC were Drs. Jonathan Asprer, Robert Chang and ET Nurse Alice Salamanca. About 115 health professionals attended the session.

The participants of each workshop were made up of representatives from different hospitals, civic agencies, support groups, ostomates, caregivers and other interested individuals. The workshop topics they worked on were on "Needs Assessment", "Organizational Structure" and "Action Plan".

Other workshops are scheduled on Aug. 17, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Cebu; Sept. 7, St Luke's Medical Center; Sept. 21, DOH-Region 11 Office, Davao; and Nov. 9, Manila Doctors Hospital.

For more information, call 733-3485 or 735 2707.

Motorkingdomplus.com golf tourney

MOTORKINGDOMPLUS.com and Yupangconet.com will have its first golf tournament on Friday, Aug. 23 at the Manila Golf Course and Country Club. Registration starts at 7 a.m.

It's a pre-launch of motorkingdomplus.com, a one-stop motor and interactive website in one. It offers an online inquiry trade-in and purchasing with a wide selection of brand new, second-hand cars, vans, pick-ups and utility vehicles.

This will be a fun activity participated in by HLT members, dealers and suppliers.

The event is sponsored by Motorcity Alabang and Makati, Residence Inn Corp., YI Finance Corp., Ultra-Laser Corp., Citibykeplus, Aqua Primera Corp. and Toyota Bel-Air.

For more details, call 899-9809 or 899-9595 local 352. Visit the third floor of the Yupangco Building at Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati. E-mail ultrasmart@yupangconet.com, www.motorkingdomplus.com or www.yupangconet.com.

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS ON THE CASTING, COUNTING AND CANVASSING OF VOTES FOR THE AUGUST 26, 2002 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE.

PRESENT:

ABALOS, Benjamin S., — Chairman
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G., — Commissioner
LANTION, Ralph C., — Commissioner
JAVIER, Rufino S.B., — Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K., — Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z., — Commissioner
TUASON, Jr., Florentino A., — Commissioner

x.....x

Promulgated: 20 August 2002

RESOLUTION NO. 5661

The Commission on Elections, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code (B.P. Blg. 881), and other election laws, RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following general instructions on the casting, counting and canvassing of votes for the August 26, 2002 special election for Member of the House of Representatives in the First District of Zamboanga del Norte:

Article I - BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

SECTION 1. ***Board of election inspectors; constitution and appointment.*** -- The boards of election inspectors, hereinafter referred to as BEI, constituted and who served in the First District of Zamboanga del Norte during the July 15, 2002 synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections are hereby appointed and shall serve on election day, August 26, 2002.

In case there are not enough public school teachers, teachers in private schools, employees in the civil service, or citizens of known probity and competence who are registered voters of the city or municipality may be appointed for election duty, provided that the chairman shall be a public school teacher.

SEC. 2. ***Qualifications of members of the BEI.*** -- No person shall be appointed as chairman or member of the BEI, whether regular, substitute or temporary, unless he:

a) Is of good moral character and irreproachable reputation;
b) Is a registered voter of the city or municipality;
c) Has never been convicted of any election offense or of any other crime punishable by more than six (6) months of imprisonment, or has no pending case filed against him for any election offense; and
d) Is able to speak and write English or the local dialect.

SEC. 3. ***Disqualification.*** -- No person shall serve as chairman or member of the BEI if he or his spouse is related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the same BEI or to any candidate to be voted for or his spouse.

SEC. 4. ***Notice of disqualification.*** -- Any member, who is disqualified for any reason, shall notify the EO in writing who shall, in turn, immediately appoint a replacement.

SEC. 5. ***Temporary vacancies in the BEI.*** -- If, at the time of the meeting of the BEI, any member is absent or the office is still vacant, the members present shall call upon the substitute of the absent member to perform the duties of the latter. If the substitute cannot be found, the members present shall appoint any non-partisan registered voter of the precinct not otherwise disqualified to temporarily fill said vacancy until the absent member appears or the vacancy is filled. In case there are two members present, they shall act jointly.

SEC. 6. ***Arrest of absent members.*** -- The member or members of the BEI present may order the arrest of any member who, in his or their judgment, has absented himself with the intention of obstructing the performance of the duties of the BEI.

SEC. 7. ***Oath of members of the BEI.*** -- Before assuming office, the members of the BEI shall take and sign an oath in the form prescribed by the Commission before any officer authorized to administer oath, or in his absence, before any other member of the BEI. The EO shall retain copies of the oath.

SEC. 8. ***Powers and functions of the BEI.*** -- The BEI shall have the following powers and functions:

a) Conduct the voting and counting of votes in its respective polling places;
b) Act as deputies of the Commission in the supervision and control of the election in the polling place wherein it is assigned;
c) Maintain order within the polling place and its premises, to keep access thereto open and unobstructed, and to enforce obedience to its lawful orders. If any person refuses to obey the lawful orders of the BEI or conducts himself in a disorderly manner in its presence or within its hearing and thereby interrupts or disturbs its proceedings, the BEI may issue an order in writing directing any peace officer to take such person into custody until the adjournment of the meeting, but such order shall not be executed as to prevent such person from voting; and
d) Perform such other functions prescribed by law or by the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission.

SEC. 9. ***Proceedings of the BEI.*** -- The meeting of the BEI shall be public and held in the polling place designated by the Commission.

The BEI shall act through its chairman and shall decide, without delay, by majority vote all questions, which may arise in the performance of its duties

SEC. 10. ***Minutes of voting and counting of votes.*** -- The BEI shall accomplish the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes (hereinafter referred to as Minutes) as the act or data therein required occur or become available during voting and counting of votes. Copies of the Minutes shall be sealed in separate envelopes to be distributed as follows:

a) The original, to the EO who shall transmit it to the Records and Statistics Division of the Election Records and Statistics Department (ERSD) in Manila; and
b) The second copy, to be deposited inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots.

SEC. 11. ***Voting privilege of the members of BEI.*** -- Members of the BEI and their substitutes may vote in the polling place where they are assigned on election day provided that:

a) They are registered voters of the same city or municipality where they are assigned; and
b) Their voting in the polling place where they are not registered should be noted in the Minutes.

SEC. 12. ***Prohibition against political activity.*** -- No member of the BEI shall engage in any partisan political activity or take part in the election except to discharge his duties as such and to vote.

SEC. 13. ***Per diem of the BEI.*** -- The members of the BEI shall each receive a per diem of eight hundred pesos (P800.00) for services rendered. Provincial, city and municipal treasurers, administrators and supervisors of the Department of Education (DepEd) assigned by the Commission to perform election duty shall be paid a per diem of eight hundred pesos (P800.00) each. Support personnel from the DepEd who may be required by the Commission to perform election duties shall each be entitled to a per diem of two hundred pesos (P200.00)

Article II - WATCHERS

SEC. 14. ***Official watchers of candidates, political parties and other groups.*** -- Each candidate and political party or coalition of political parties duly registered with the Commission and fielding candidates in the August 26, 2002 special election may appoint two watchers, to serve alternately, in every polling place.

Duly accredited citizens arms of the Commission shall be entitled to appoint a watcher in every polling place. Other civic, religious, professional, business, service, youth, and any other similar organizations, with prior authority of the Commission, shall be entitled collectively to appoint one (1) watcher in every polling place.

If because of limited space, all watchers cannot be accommodated in the polling place, preference shall be given to the watchers of the six (6) accredited major political parties as determined by the Commission and the watcher of the citizens arm.

SEC. 15. ***Qualifications of watchers.*** -- No person shall be appointed watcher unless:

a) He is a registered voter of the city or municipality comprising the precinct where he is assigned;
b) Is of good reputation;
c) Has not been convicted by final judgment of any election offense or of any other crime;
d) Knows how to read and write Pilipino, English or any of the prevailing local dialects; and
e) Is not related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to the chairman or any member of the BEI in the polling place where he seeks appointment as watcher.

SEC. 16. ***Rights and duties of watchers.*** -- Upon entering the poling place, the watchers shall deliver to the chairman of the BEI their appointments as watchers and their names shall forthwith be recorded in the Minutes with a notation under their signatures that they are not disqualified to serve as such under the immediately preceding Section. The appointments of the watchers shall bear the personal signature of the candidate or duly authorized representative of the party, organization or coalition that appointed them. For this purpose, at least three (3) days before election day, registered parties, organizations or coalitions authorized by the Commission to appoint watchers shall provide the EOs concerned with the names and signatures of their representatives authorized to appoint watchers in the city or municipality.

The watchers shall have the right to:

a) Witness and inform themselves of the proceedings of the BEI;
b) Take note of what they may see or hear;
c) Take photographs of the proceedings and incidents, if any, during the counting of votes, as well as of the election returns, tally board and ballot boxes;
d) File a protest against any irregularity or violation of law which they believe may have been committed by the BEI or by any of its members or by any person;
e) Obtain from the BEI a certificate as to the filing of such protest and/or of the resolution thereon;
f) Read the ballot after it shall have been read by the chairman, as well as the election returns after it shall have been completed and signed by the members of the BEI without touching said election documents; and
g) Be furnished, upon request, with a certificate of votes casts for the candidates, duly signed and thumbmarked by the chairman and all members of the BEI.

Watchers shall not speak to any member of the BEI, or to any voter, or among themselves, in such a manner as would disturb the proceedings of the BEI.

The six (6) principal watchers representing the six (6) accredited major political parties in the polling place shall, if available, affix their signatures and thumbmarks in the election returns.

Article III - ELECTION FORMS AND SUPPLIES

SEC. 17. ***Election forms, documents and supplies.*** -- Except when authorized to do so earlier by the Commission, the BEI shall get the forms, documents and supplies early in the morning of election day.

The following forms, documents and supplies shall be allocated and distributed per precinct/clustered precinct by the city/municipal treasurer and the EO.

A. FROM CITY/MUNICIPAL TREASURER

CEF NO.	FORMS AND SUPPLIES	RATE OF DISTRIBUTION
ELECTION FORMS		
3	POSTER INDICATING PRECINCT NUMBER	1 PIECE
6	OFFICIAL BALLOTS	1 PC. PER VOTER + 3 PER PRECINCT
9	ELECTION RETURNS	1 SET OF 7 COPIES
10	TALLY BOARD	1 PIECE
11	MINUTES OF VOTING AND COUNTING OF VOTES	1 SET OF 2 PCS.
12	PAPER SEALS	25 PIECES
13	CERTIFICATE OF VOTES RECEIVED BY CANDIDATES BY PRECINCT - WATCHERS	20 PIECES
14	CERTIFICATE OF RECEIPT OF OFFICIAL BALLOTS, OTHER FORMS AND SUPPLIES BY BEI	3 PIECES
27, 27-A, 27-B, 27-C & 27-D	OFFICIAL RECEIPT OF ELECTION RETURNS - COPY FOR THE ELECTION OFFICER - COPY FOR THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS - COPY FOR THE DOMINANT MAJORITY PARTY - COPY FOR THE DOMINANT MAJORITY PARTY - COPY FOR THE CITIZEN'S ARM	10 PIECES
ENVELOPES		
15, 16, 16-A, 16-B, 16-C, 16-D AND 28	FOR COUNTED OFFICIAL BALLOTS, EXCESS, MARKED, SPOILED, TORN HALF OF, UNUSED OFFICIAL BALLOTS, OTHER HALF OF, TORN UNUSED OFFICIAL BALLOTS AND OFFICIAL BALLOTS	7 PIECES
17, 17-B	FOR ELECTION RETURNS	1 SET OF 7 PCS.
17-C, 17-D, 17-E, 17-F AND 17-G	- COPY FOR THE CITY/MUNICIPAL BOARD OF CANVASSERS - COPY FOR THE COMMISSION - COPY FOR PROVINCIAL BOARD OF CANVASSERS - COPY FOR DOMINANT MAJORITY PARTY - COPY FOR DOMINANT MINORITY PARTY - COPY FOR ACCREDITED CITIZENS ARM - COPY FOR BALLOT BOX	
18 & 18-A	FOR MINUTES OF VOTING AND COUNTING OF VOTES	1 SET OF 2 PCS.
19, 19-A & 19-B	FOR KEY OF BALLOT BOX	1 SET OF 3 PCS.
OTHER FORMS		
30/31	TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN/POLL CLERK/MEMBER	10 PIECES
33/35	CERTIFICATE OF CHALLENGE OR PROTEST AND DECISION OF THE BOARD	10 PIECES
39	OATH OF VOTER CHALLENGED FOR ILLEGAL ACTS	10 PIECES
40	OATH OF IDENTIFICATION OF CHALLENGED VOTER	10 PIECES
41	SUMMONS RE CHALLENGED VOTER	10 PIECES
SUPPLIES		
	BALLPEN	13 PIECES
	RUBBER BAND	8 PIECES
	BOND PAPER LONG	30 PIECES
	CARBON PAPER	5 SHEETS
	PADLOCK	3 PIECES
	FINGERPRINT TAKER	1 PIECE
	SELF-LOCKING FIXED LENGTH SEAL	1 PIECE
	INDELIBLE INK	2 BOTTLES
	BALLOT SECRECY FOLDER	10 PIECES
	BALLOT BOX	1 PIECE

B. FROM THE ELECTION OFFICER

1. Book of Voters
2. CVL Report 1-B
3. CVL Form 2
4. List of Deactivated Voters

The BEI shall carefully check the different election forms, documents and supplies and the quantity actually received, and deposit them in the ballot box, which shall thereafter be locked with three padlocks. Each member of the BEI shall keep in his custody one key corresponding to one of the padlocks. The BEI shall sign a Certificate of Receipt (CE Form No. 14) in three copies, the original copy of which shall be delivered to the city/municipal treasurer, the second copy to be retained by the BEI, and the third copy to the EO, who shall transmit said receipts to the Records and Statistics Division, ERSD, Comelec, Manila immediately after election day.

SEC. 18. ***Official ballots.*** - The ballot shall be uniform in size: printed in black ink on white security paper with distinctive, clear and legible water marks that will readily distinguish it from ordinary paper;

It shall be with stubs and detachable coupons containing the serial number of the ballot with space for the thumbmark of the voter on the detachable coupon.

It shall bear at the top of the middle portion thereof, the coat-of-arms of the Republic of the Philippines the words "Official Ballot" the name of the city or the municipality and province in which the election is to be held, the date of the election and the following notice in English: "Fill out this ballot secretly using a voting booth. Do not put any distinctive mark on any part of this ballot."

It shall contain the name of the office to be voted for in the election allowing sufficient space with horizontal line where the voter may write the name of the individual candidate voted for by him.

There shall not be any thing printed or written on the back of the ballot except as provided in Sec. 28 hereof.

SEC. 19. ***Forms to be reproduced when needed.*** - Samples of the following forms are attached hereto to guide the BEI in the replication thereof when the need arises:

a) Temporary appointment of Chairman/Poll Clerk/Member (Annex "A")
b) Certificate of Challenge or Protest and Decision of the Board (Annex "B")
c) Oath of Voter Challenged for Illegal Acts (Annex "C")
d) Oath of Identification of Challenged Voter (Annex "D")
e) Summons Re Challenged Voter (Annex "E")

SEC. 20. ***Book of voters and computerized list of voters.*** -- Each precinct shall have:

a) Its Book of Voters
b) One (1) copy of CVL Form 2 (List of Voters with Voting Records)
c) Two (2) copies of CVL Report 1-B (List of Voters) and
d) Two (2) copies of the list of deactivated voters all duly certified by the Election Registration Board (ERB).

The chairman of the BEI shall have custody of the book of voters and one (1) copy of CVL Report 1-B. The poll clerk shall have custody of the CVL Form 2 and one (1) copy of the list of deactivated voters.

Article IV - CASTING OF VOTES

SEC. 21. ***Date of election.*** - The special election shall be held on August 26, 2002.

SEC. 22. ***Who are allowed to vote.*** -- Except as otherwise provided in Section 11 hereof, only the following voters are allowed to vote:

a) Those whose registration records are contained in the book of voters; or
b) Those whose names are ordered by the courts to be included in the list.

SEC. 23. ***Voting hours.*** -- The casting of votes shall start promptly at seven o'clock in the morning and shall end at three o'clock in the afternoon of election day. If at three o'clock there are still voters within thirty meters in front of the polling place who have not yet cast their votes, the voting shall continue but only to allow said voters to cast their votes without interruption. The poll clerk shall, without delay, list the names of said voters consecutively numbered. The voters listed shall be called to vote by the poll clerk by announcing each name three times in the order in which they are listed. Any voter in the list who is not present when called shall not be permitted to vote at any later time. The said list shall be submitted to the EO.

SEC. 24. ***Place of voting.*** -- The voters shall cast their votes in the polling place designated by the Commission for the precinct. For this purpose, the precincts and polling places used during the July 15, 2002 barangay elections shall be adopted. The poster indicating the precinct number (CEF 3) shall be prominently posted near or at the door of the polling place.

SEC. 25. ***Preliminaries to the voting.*** -- The BEI shall meet at the polling place at six o'clock in the morning of election day and do the following:

a) See to it that it has all the election forms, documents and supplies needed;
b) Post one copy of CVL Report 1-B and the list of deactivated voters near or at the door of the polling place; and
c) Staple, paste or post the certified list of candidates inside the ballot secrecy folder.

Before the voting begins, the chairman of the BEI shall:

a) Open the ballot box, empty both of its compartment, exhibit them to all those present and, being empty, lock its interior cover with three (3) padlocks. The members of the BEI shall each retain their respective keys to the padlocks during the voting; and
b) Show to the public and to the watchers present, the package of official ballots and the book of voters, both duly sealed, and thereafter, break the seals.

The number of pads and the serial numbers of the ballots in each pad, and the fact that the package of ballots and the book of voters were shown to the public with the seals intact shall be entered in the Minutes.

SEC. 26. ***Rules to be observed during the voting.*** -- During the voting, the BEI shall see to it that:

a) No watcher enters the places reserved for the voters and the BEI or mingle and talk with the voters;
b) No voter prepares his ballot without using a ballot secrecy folder or exhibit the contents of the ballot to any person;
c) No ballot is brought outside the polling place;
d) No person carrying any firearm or any other deadly weapon, except those expressly authorized by the Commission, enters the polling place;
e) The voters shall vote in the order of their arrival in the polling place;
f) There is no crowding of voters and disorderly behavior inside the polling place; and
g) The interior cover of the ballot box shall remain locked until the voting is finished and the counting begins

SEC. 27. ***Persons allowed in and around the polling place.*** -- Only the following shall be allowed inside the polling place:

a) Members of the BEI;
b) Watchers who shall stay only in the space reserved for them;
c) Representatives of the Commission;
d) Voters casting their votes;
e) Voters waiting for their turn to vote;
f) Voters waiting for their turn to get their ballots; and
g) Others who may be specifically authorized by the Commission.

Unless specifically authorized by the Commission, it is unlawful for any officer or member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) or the Philippine National Police (PNP) or any peace officer or armed person belonging to any extra-legal police agency, special forces, reaction forces, strike forces, Civilian Armed Force Geographical Units (CAFGUs), *barangay tanods*, or other similar forces or para-military forces, including special forces, security guards, special policemen, and all other kinds of armed or unarmed extra legal police forces, to enter any polling place or stay within a radius of fifty (50) meters thereof, except to vote.

However, the BEI, by majority vote, if it deems necessary, may order in writing the detail of a policeman or any peace officer for its protection or for the protection of the election documents and paraphernalia. Such order shall be entered in the Minutes. Said policeman or peace officer shall stay outside the polling place within a radius of thirty (30) meters near enough to be easily called by the BEI at anytime, but never at the door, and in no case shall the said policeman or peace officer hold any conversation with any voter or disturb or prevent or in any manner obstruct the free access of the voters to the polling place.

No *barangay* official shall enter any polling place except to vote, in which case, he shall immediately leave the polling place after voting.

SEC. 28. ***Manner of obtaining ballots.*** -- The voter shall approach the chairman and give his name and address together with the other data concerning his person.

If any member of the BEI doubts the identity of the voter, the BEI shall require the voter to present any authentic document that may establish his identity. If the BEI is satisfied with his identity, the chairman shall distinctly announce the voter's name in a tone loud enough to be plainly heard throughout the polling place. If such voter has not been challenged, or having been challenged, the question has been decided in his favor, the voter shall be given a ballot.

No person other than the chairman shall deliver official ballots nor shall more than one ballot be delivered at one time.

Before giving the ballot to the voter, the chairman shall:

a) Apply indelible ink at the base and extending to the cuticle of the right forefinger nail of the voter, or any other finger nail if there be no right forefinger;
A voter who for any reason refuses to be stained with the indelible ink, or whose finger already shows stain of indelible ink, shall not be given a ballot. Such fact shall be entered in the Minutes.
b) Announce the serial number of the ballot and enter the same in the corresponding space in the CVL Form 2 and at the back of the voter's voter registration record (VRR);
c) Authenticate the ballot by affixing his signature at the back thereof; and
d) Failure to authenticate shall be noted in the Minutes and shall constitute an election offense.
e) Fold it in such a manner that its face, except the portion where the serial number appears is covered and give the same to the voter.

SEC. 29. ***Manner of voting.*** -- Upon receipt of the ballot, the voter shall forthwith affix his signature in the proper space at the back of his VRR. In case of inclusion of a voter by court order, said voter shall affix his/her signature and thumbmark on CVL Form 2, indicating clearly that such voter has been included by court order.

Using a ballot secrecy folder, he shall fill his ballot by writing the name of the candidate of his choice.

It shall be unlawful to use carbon paper, paraffin paper or other means for making a copy of the contents of the ballot or make use of any means to identify the vote of the voter

SEC. 30. ***Preparation of ballots for illiterate and disabled voters.*** – a) No voter shall be allowed to vote as illiterate or physically disabled unless such fact is so indicated in his registration record.

b) A voter who is illiterate or physically unable to prepare the ballot by himself may be assisted in the preparation of his ballot by a relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, or, if he has none, by any person of his confidence who belongs to the same household, or by any member of the BEI;

c) No person may assist an illiterate or disabled voter more than three (3) times except the members of the BEI;

d) In all cases, the poll clerk shall first verify from the illiterate or disabled voter whether the latter had authorized the assistor to prepare the ballot for him;

e) The assistor shall prepare the ballot for the illiterate or disabled voter using a portable voting booth in the presence of the latter; and

f) The person assisting shall bind himself in writing and under oath to fill the ballot strictly in accordance with the instructions of the voter and not to reveal the contents of the ballot, by affixing his signature in the appropriate space in the Minutes.

SEC. 31. ***Accessibility of polling place to disabled voters.*** -- The EOs, in coordination with the proper school or building officials, shall see to it that the designated polling places of precincts where there are disabled registered voters as shown in their VRRs, are located in the ground floors of the polling centers so that the disabled voters can have easy access thereto.

SEC. 32. ***Spoiled ballots.*** - A ballot is considered spoiled in the following instances:

a) When the ballot is accidentally defaced by the voter in such a way that it can no longer be lawfully used.
In such a case, the voter shall surrender the ballot folded to the chairman who shall note in the corresponding space in the voter's VRR and CVL Form 2 that said ballot is spoiled. The chairman shall enter the serial number of the spoiled ballot in the space provided for in the Minutes. The spoiled ballot shall be so marked and signed by any member of the BEI, and placed inside the compartment for spoiled ballots. The voter shall then be given another ballot duly authenticated by the chairman after announcing the serial number of the second ballot and recording said serial number in the corresponding space in the voter's VRR and CVL Form 2. If the second ballot is again spoiled, the same shall be surrendered correctly folded to the chairman in the same manner as the first spoiled ballot. No voter, however, shall change his ballot more than once.
b) When the detachable coupon of the ballot was detached not in the presence of the BEI; and
c) When the serial number of the ballot returned by the voter is different from the serial number of the ballot earlier given to the said voter.

SEC. 33. ***Procedure after voter has filled up the ballot.*** - a) After the voter has filled his ballot, he shall fold it in the same manner as when he received it;

b) In the presence of all the members of the BEI, he shall affix his thumbmark in the corresponding space in the coupon, and return the folded ballot to the chairman;

c) The chairman, in the presence of the voter and all the members of the BEI, without unfolding the ballot or seeing its contents, shall verify its serial number as against the serial number previously entered at the back of the VRR or in CVL Form 2, as the case may be, to determine whether it is the same ballot given to the voter.

Any ballot returned to the chairman, the serial number of which does not tally with the serial number entered in the voter's VRR and CVL Form 2, shall be considered "SPOILED" and shall be so marked and signed by any member of the BEI, and placed inside the compartment for spoiled ballots. The voter shall be given another ballot so as not to disenfranchise him, without prejudice, however, to the filing of appropriate charges. For this purpose, the BEI shall submit to the EO the names of such voters;

d) The voter shall forthwith affix his thumbmark in the corresponding space at the back of his VRR, or in CVL Form 2 in case his VRR is not included in the Book of Voters;

e) The chairman shall likewise sign in the proper space at the back of the VRR, or in the CVL Form 2 in case the voter's VRR is not included in the Book of Voters;

f) The chairman shall detach the coupon in the presence of the voter and of the other members of the BEI and shall deposit the detached coupon in the compartment for spoiled ballots.

Any ballot returned to the chairman, the detachable coupon of which has been removed not in the presence of the other members of the BEI, and placed inside the compartment for spoiled ballots. The voter shall be given another ballot so as not to disenfranchise him, without prejudice, however, to the filing of appropriate charges. For this purpose, the BEI shall submit to the EO the names of such voters;

g) The chairman shall return the ballot to the voter, who shall personally deposit the same inside the compartment for valid ballots.

If it should become necessary to make room for more ballots, the chairman may, in the presence of the members and watchers, open the box and press down with his hands the ballots contained therein without removing any of them, after which the BEI shall again close the interior cover of the ballot box and lock it with padlocks as herein provided; and

h) The voter shall then depart.

SEC. 34. ***Challenge against illegal voters.*** -- Any voter or watcher may challenge any person offering to vote for:

a) Not being registered; or
b) Using the name of another; or
c) Suffering from an existing disqualification.

In such case, the BEI shall satisfy itself as to whether or not the ground for the challenge is true by requiring proof of registration, identity or qualification.

No voter shall be required to present his identification card unless his identity is challenged. However, the absence of an identification card shall not preclude the voter from voting if his identity can be established from the photograph, fingerprint, or specimen signatures in his VRR or if a member of the BEI identifies him under oath. Such identification shall be reflected in the Minutes.

SEC. 35. ***Challenge based on certain illegal acts.*** -- Any voter or watcher may challenge any voter offering to vote on the ground that the challenged person has:

a) Received or expects to receive, paid, offered or promised to pay, contributed, offered or promised to contribute money or anything of value as consideration for his vote or for the vote of another; or
b) Made or received a promise to influence the giving or withholding of any such vote; or
c) Made a bet or is interested directly or indirectly in a bet which depends upon the results of the election.

The challenged person shall take an oath before the BEI that he has not committed any of the acts alleged in the challenge. Upon taking such oath, the challenge shall be dismissed and the voter shall be allowed to vote. In case the voter refuses to take such oath, the challenge shall be sustained and the voter shall not be allowed to vote.

SEC. 36. ***Record of challenges and oaths.*** -- The poll clerk shall record in the Minutes all challenges and oaths taken in connection therewith and the decision of the BEI in each case.

SEC. 37. ***Disposition of unused ballots.*** -- The chairman shall record in the Minutes the quantity and serial numbers of unused ballots. Thereafter, he shall, in the presence of the members of the BEI and watchers, tear the unused ballots in half lengthwise without removing the stubs and detachable coupons. One half shall be placed in the envelope for the purpose, and submitted to the EO; while the other half shall be placed in another envelope for the purpose, and then deposited inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots. Such facts shall be entered in the Minutes.

SEC. 38. ***Prohibition against premature announcement of voting.*** -- Before the termination of the voting, no member of the BEI shall make any announcement as to whether a certain registered voter has already voted or not, as to how many have already voted or how many so far have failed to vote or any other fact tending to show or showing the state of the polls; nor shall he make any statement at any time, except as witness before a court or body as to how any person voted.

Article V - COUNTING OF VOTES

SEC. 39. ***Counting of votes to be public and without interruption.*** -- After the termination of voting, the BEI shall publicly count in the polling place the votes cast and ascertain the results. Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the BEI shall not adjourn or postpone or delay the count until it has been fully completed.

SEC. 40. ***Transfer of counting of votes to safer place.*** -- If on account of imminent danger of violence, terrorism, disorder or similar causes, it becomes necessary to transfer the counting of votes to a safer place, the BEI, by unanimous approval and concurred in by the majority of the watchers present, may effect such transfer to the nearest safe *barangay* or school building within the city or municipality. This fact shall be recorded in the Minutes, and all the members of the BEI and the watchers shall manifest their approval and concurrence by affixing their signatures therein.

In effecting the transfer, the BEI shall ensure the safety and integrity of all election documents and paraphernalia. The PNP and/or the AFP in the area in consultation with the EO shall provide adequate security and transport facilities to the members of the BEI and the election documents and paraphernalia during the transfer and counting of votes.

SEC. 41. ***Preliminaries to the counting of votes.*** -- The chairman or the poll clerk shall unlock the padlocks, open the ballot box and take out the ballots from the compartment for valid ballots. The BEI shall then proceed to examine the ballots whether there are:

a) **Excess ballots.** The BEI shall count the ballots in the compartment for valid ballots without unfolding them or exposing their contents, except to ascertain that each ballot is single, and compare the number of ballots in the compartment with the number of voters who actually voted. If there are excess ballots, all of the ballots shall be returned to the compartment and thoroughly mixed therein. The poll clerk, without seeing the ballots and with his back to the box, shall publicly draw out as many ballots as may be equal to the excess and, without unfolding them, place them in the envelope for excess/marked/spoiled/half of torn unused ballots.
If, in the course of examination, ballots are found folded together before they were deposited in the box, they shall be placed in the envelope for excess/marked/spoiled/half of torn unused ballots. The envelope shall be signed by the members of the BEI, sealed and deposited in the compartment for valid ballots.
b) **Ballots with undetached coupons.** In case ballots with undetached coupons are found in the compartment, the coupons shall be removed and deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots. The ballots shall be included in the pile of valid ballots.
c) **Ballots with the word "spoiled".** If ballots with the word "spoiled" should be found in the compartment, they shall be placed in the envelope for excess/marked/spoiled/half of torn unused ballots. The envelope shall be signed by the members of the BEI, sealed and deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots.
d) **Marked ballots.** The BEI shall then unfold the ballots and determine whether there are any marked ballots. If any should be found, they shall be placed in the envelope for excess/marked/spoiled/half of torn unused ballots. The envelope shall be signed by the members of the BEI, sealed and deposited in the compartment for valid ballots.
Excess and marked ballots shall not be counted.

SEC. 42. ***Ballots deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots.*** -- The ballots deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots shall be presumed "spoiled", whether or not they contain such notation; but if the BEI should find that during the voting any valid ballot was erroneously deposited in this compartment, or if any ballot separated as excess or marked had been erroneously deposited therein, the BEI shall open said compartment after the voting and before the counting of votes for the sole purpose of drawing out the ballots erroneously deposited therein. The valid ballots so withdrawn shall be mixed with the other valid ballots. Such fact shall be recorded in the Minutes.

SEC. 43. ***Manner of counting of votes.*** - The table shall be cleared of all unnecessary writing paraphernalia. The BEI shall unfold the ballots and form separate piles of one hundred (100) ballots each, held together by rubber bands. The chairman of the BEI shall take the ballots of the first pile one by one and read the name of the candidate voted for. During the counting, the chairman, the poll clerk and the third member shall position themselves in such a way as to give the watchers and the public an unimpeded view of the ballot being read by the chairman, as well as of the election returns and tally board being simultaneously accomplished by the poll clerk and the third member, respectively. The watchers and the public shall not touch any of the said election documents.

Any violation hereof shall constitute an election offense.

The poll clerk and the third member shall record in the election returns and in the tally board, respectively, each vote as it is read. Each vote shall be recorded by a vertical line, except every fifth vote for the same candidate, which shall be recorded by a diagonal line crossing the previous four vertical lines.

After finishing the first pile of ballots, the BEI shall determine the total number of votes recorded for each candidate, the sum being noted on the tally board or sheet and on the election returns. In case of discrepancy a recount shall be made. The ballots shall again be grouped together as before.

The same procedure shall be followed with the succeeding piles of ballots.

After all the ballots have been read, the BEI shall affix their initials after the last vote recorded or immediately after the name of the candidates who did not receive any votes. Thereafter, the BEI shall record, in words and in figures, the total number of votes obtained by each candidate, both in the election returns and in the tally board. The counted ballots shall be placed in the envelope for the purpose. The envelope shall be closed, signed, sealed and deposited in the compartment for valid ballots. The tally board as accomplished and certified by the BEI shall not be changed or destroyed but shall be kept in the compartment for valid ballots.

SEC. 44. ***Rules for the appreciation of ballots.*** - In the reading and appreciation of ballots, every ballot shall be presumed to be valid unless there is clear and good reason to justify its rejection. The BEI shall observe the following rules, bearing in mind that the object of the election is to obtain the expression of the voter's will:

a) Where only the first name of a candidate or only his surname is written, the vote for such candidate is valid, if there is no other candidate with the same first name or surname for the same office.
b) Where only the first name of a candidate is written on the ballot which, when read, has a sound similar to the surname of another candidate, the vote shall be counted in favor of the candidate with such surname;
c) When two or more words are written on the same line on the ballot, all of which are the surnames of two or more candidates, the same shall not be counted for any of them;
d) When on the ballot is written a single word which is the first name of a candidate and which is at the same time the surname of his opponent, the vote shall be counted in favor of the latter;
e) When two words are written on the ballot, one of which is the first name of a candidate and the other is the surname of his opponent, the vote shall not be counted for either;
f) A name or surname incorrectly written which, when read, has a sound similar to the name or surname of a candidate when correctly written shall be counted in his favor;
g) When in a space in the ballot there appears a name of a candidate that is erased and another clearly written, the vote is valid for the latter;
h) The erroneous initial of the first name which accompanies the correct surname of a candidate, the erroneous initial of the surname accompanying the correct first name of a candidate, or the erroneous middle initial of the candidate shall not annul the vote in favor of the latter;
i) The fact that there exists another person who is not a candidate with the first name or surname of a candidate shall not prevent the adjudication of the vote of the latter;
j) Ballots which contains prefixes such as "Sr.", "Mr.", "Datu", "Don", "Ginoo", "Hon.", "Gob.", or suffixes like "Hijo", "Jr.", "Segundo", are valid;
k) The use of the nicknames and appellations of affection and friendship, if accompanied by the first name or surname of the candidate, does not annul such vote, except when they were used as a means to identify the voter, in which case the whole ballot is invalid: Provided, That if the nickname used is unaccompanied by the name or surname of a candidate and it is the one by which he is generally or popularly known in the locality, the name shall be counted in favor of said candidate, if there is no other candidate for the same office with the same nickname;
l) Any vote containing initials only or which is illegible or which does not sufficiently identify the candidate for whom it is intended shall be considered as a stray vote but shall not invalidate the whole ballot;
m) If on the ballot is correctly written the first name of a candidate but with a different surname, or the surname of the candidate is correctly written but with a different first name, the vote shall not be counted in favor of any candidate having such first name and/or surname but the ballot shall be considered valid for other candidates;
n) Any ballot written with crayon, lead pencil, or in ink, wholly or in part, shall be valid;
o) Where there are two or more candidates voted for in an office for which the law authorizes the election of only one, the vote shall not be counted in favor of any of them;
p) Any vote in favor of a person who has not filed a certificate of candidacy or in favor of a candidate for an office for which he did not present himself shall be considered as a stray vote;
q) Ballots containing the name of a candidate printed and pasted on a blank space of the ballot or affixed thereto through any mechanical process are totally null and void;
r) Unless it should clearly appear that they have been deliberately put by the voter to serve as identification marks, commas, dots, lines, or hyphens between the first name and surname of a candidate, or in other parts of the ballot, traces of the letter "I", "J" and other similar ones, the first letters or syllables of names which the voter does not continue, the use of two or more kinds of writing and unintentional or accidental flourishes, strokes or strains, shall not invalidate the ballot;
s) Any ballot which clearly appears to have been filled by two distinct persons before it was deposited in the ballot box during the voting is totally null and void;
t) Any vote cast in favor of a candidate who has been disqualified by final judgment shall be considered as stray and shall not be counted but it shall not invalidate the ballot;
u) The accidental tearing or perforation of a ballot does not annul it; and
v) Failure to remove the detachable coupon from a ballot does not annul such ballot.

Article VI - PREPARATION AND SAFEKEEPING OF ELECTION RETURNS AND OTHER ELECTION FORMS AND PARAPHERNALIA

SEC. 45. ***Preparation of election returns and tally board.*** - The BEIs shall prepare in their own handwriting the election returns and tally board simultaneously with the counting of the votes in their respective polling places. The election returns shall be prepared in seven (7) copies.

Before the actual counting of votes, the chairman shall strictly ensure that all the following data are entered in the election returns:

a) Precinct number, *barangay*, city/municipality and province in which the election is held;
b) Total number of:
1. registered voters in the precinct;
2. voters included by order of the court;
3. voters excluded by order of the court;
4. voters who actually voted;
5. ballots received,
6. ballots found in the compartment for valid ballots;
7 valid ballots withdrawn from the compartment for spoiled ballots because they were erroneously placed therein;
8. spoiled ballots;
9. excess ballots;
10. ballots found folded together; and
11. marked ballots.

As the chairman reads the ballots, the poll clerk and the third member shall record simultaneously in the election returns and in the tally board, respectively, the following:

a) Votes obtained by each candidate recorded by a vertical line, except for every fifth vote for the same candidate, which shall be recorded by a diagonal line crossing the previous four vertical

b) Sub-total of votes obtained by each candidate after each pile of 100 ballots read;
After all the ballots have been read:
a) The members of the BEI shall close the entries by affixing their initials immediately after the last vote recorded or immediately after the name of the candidate who did not receive any vote;
b) The poll clerk and the third member shall record the total number of votes obtained by each candidate, in words and figures;
c) The members of the BEI shall accomplish the certification portion of the election returns and tally board;
d) The watchers, if any, shall affix their signatures and imprint their thumbmarks on the right hand portion of the election returns and the tally board;
e) The BEI shall ensure that the entries on the first copy of the election returns are clearly impressed on the other copies.

SEC. 46. ***Announcement of the result of the election in the polling place.*** -- Upon the completion of the election returns, the chairman shall orally and publicly announce the total number of votes received by each candidate stating their corresponding offices.

SEC. 47. ***Distribution of election returns.*** - Immediately after the announcement of results, each copy of the election returns shall be folded, sealed with a serially numbered paper seal and placed in its corresponding envelope to be distributed as follows:
1. The *first copy*, to the city or municipal board of canvassers;
2. The *second copy*, to the Commission;
3. The *third copy*, to the provincial board of canvassers;
4. The *fourth copy*, to the citizens arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count;
5. The *fifth copy*, to the dominant majority party as determined by the Commission;
6. The *sixth copy*, to the dominant minority party as determined by the Commission;
7. The *seventh copy*, to be deposited inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballot.

SEC. 48. ***Certificate of votes.*** -- After the counting of votes and the announcement of the results of the election in the precinct, and before leaving the polling place, the BEI shall issue certificates of votes upon request of the candidates or their duly accredited watchers. The certificate shall be signed and thumbmarked by each member of the BEI and shall contain:

a) The total number of votes obtained by each candidate, written in words and in figures;
b) The precinct number;
c) The name of the city or municipality and province;
d) The total number of voters who voted in the precinct; and
e) The date and time of its issuance.

The BEI shall require the requesting watcher to acknowledge receipt thereof.

The refusal of the chairman and members of the BEI to furnish said certificate shall constitute an election offense.

SEC. 49. ***Alteration and correction in the election returns.*** -- Before the announcement of the results of the election in the polling place, the BEI may, on its own, make any correction or alteration in the election returns provided all the members thereof duly initial the corrections or alterations.

After announcement of the results of the election in the polling place, the BEI shall not make any alteration or amendment in any of the copies of the election returns, unless so ordered by the Commission upon petition of all or the majority of the members of the BEI within five (5) days from the date of the election or twenty-four (24) hours from the time a copy of the election returns concerned is opened by the board of canvassers, whichever is earlier. The petition shall be accompanied by proof of service upon all candidates affected. If the petition is filed by all members of the BEI and the result of the election would not be affected by said correction and none of the candidates affected objects thereto, the Commission, upon being satisfied of the veracity of the petition and of the error alleged therein, shall order the BEI to make the proper correction on the election returns.

However, if a candidate affected by said petition objects thereto, whether the petition is filed by all or only a majority of the members of the BEI and the result of the election would be affected by the correction sought to be made, the Commission shall proceed summarily to hear the petition. If it finds the petition meritorious and there are no evidence or signs indicating that the identity and integrity of the ballot box have been violated, the Commission shall order the opening of the ballot box. After satisfying itself that the integrity of the ballots therein has also been duly preserved, the Commission shall order the recounting of the votes of the candidates affected and the proper corrections made on the election returns, unless the correction sought is such that it can be made without the need of opening the ballot box.

SEC. 50. ***Disposition of ballot boxes, keys, election returns and other documents.*** -- Upon the termination of the counting of votes and the announcement of the results of the election in the precinct, the BEI shall:

a) Give the copies of election returns intended for the dominant majority party, dominant minority party and the citizens' arm authorized by the Commission to conduct unofficial count, to their respective representatives, if any, who have been authorized by said parties to receive such copies in the polling place. If there is no such representative in the polling place, the BEI shall submit said copies to the EO;
b) Place the following inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots:
   1. Envelopes containing:
      I) Used/Counted official ballots;
      II) Election Returns copy for the ballot box;
      III) Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes copy for the ballot box;
   2. Tally board; and
   3. Stubs of used pads of official ballots.
c) Ensure that the envelopes containing the:
   1. Half of torn unused ballots;
   2. Marked Ballots; and
   3. Excess Ballots,

   are inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots.
d) Close the inner compartments of the ballot box, lock them with one (1) self-locking serially numbered fixed length seal and then lock the outer cover with three (3) padlocks and one (1) fixed length seal. The three keys to the padlocks shall be placed in separate envelopes, which shall be sealed and signed by all members of the BEI;
e) Deliver the ballot box, accompanied by watchers, to the city or municipal treasurer.
   For this purpose, the city/municipal treasurer shall, if necessary, keep his office open all night on the day of the election and shall provide the necessary facilities for said delivery at the expense of the city/municipality.
   In case the ballot box delivered by the BEI is not locked and/or sealed, the treasurer shall lock and/or seal the ballot box. The treasurer shall include such fact, including the serial number of the self-locking fixed length seal used, in his report to the Commission.
e) Deliver to the EO:
   1. The remaining copies of the election returns;
   2. Book of Voters;
   3. CVL Form No. 2;
   4. CVL Report 1-B;
   5. Two (2) copies of the certified list of deactivated voters;
   6. Three (3) envelopes, each containing a key to a padlock of the ballot box, which shall each be delivered, under proper receipt, to the:
      - Provincial Election Supervisor (PES);
      - Provincial Prosecutor; and
      - Provincial Treasurer.
   7. Envelope containing the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes, copy for the Commission;
   8. Envelope containing the other half of the torn unused official ballots;
   9. List of Voters allowed to vote after the close of voting, and;
   10. Other pertinent papers and documents.

On the day after the election, the EO or the treasurer, as the case may be, shall require the BEI who failed to deliver the election documents or paraphernalia mentioned herein to deliver the same immediately.

SEC. 51. ***Use and Preservation of the list of voters.*** -- The EO shall use the CVL forms used in the elections to update the voting history of each voter in his area of jurisdiction. He shall keep them in a safe place until such time that the Commission gives instructions on their disposition.

SEC. 52. ***Omission or erroneous inclusion of documents in ballot box.*** - If, after locking the ballot box, the BEI discovers that some documents or articles required to be placed in the ballot box were not placed therein, the BEI, instead of opening it to place therein said documents or articles, shall deliver the same to the EO. The EO shall take appropriate measures to preserve the integrity of the documents.

In no instance shall the ballot box be reopened to place therein or to take out therefrom any document or article except in proper cases and with prior written authority of the Commission to retrieve copies of the election returns which will be needed in any canvass. In such instance, the members of the BEI and the watchers shall be notified of the time and place of the opening of said ballot box. However, if there are other authentic copies of the election returns outside of the ballot box which can be used in the canvass, such copies of the election returns shall be used in said canvass and the opening of the ballot box to retrieve copies of the election returns placed therein shall then be dispensed with.

Article VII - DELIVERY AND TRANSMITTAL OF ELECTION RETURNS

SEC. 53. ***Delivery and transmittal of election returns.*** -- The BEI shall deliver to the EO, copies of the election returns intended for the following:
a) City/Municipal Board of Canvassers;
b) Commission on Elections; and
c) Provincial Board of Canvassers.

The copies of the election returns intended for the dominant majority party, the dominant minority party and the citizens arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count, shall be given in the polling place to their respective representatives who have been authorized by said parties and organizations to receive such copies.

SEC. 54. ***Delivery and transmittal of election returns by the EO.*** -- The EO shall segregate all copies of the election returns received from the BEIs and deposit them in ballot boxes. Thereafter, he shall lock each ballot box with three padlocks and fixed length seal, and deliver the ballot boxes and their keys to the body or offices concerned with sufficient security escort from either the PNP or AFP and watchers of political parties, candidates and the accredited citizens arm of the Commission.

The ballot boxes containing copies of election returns intended for the city/municipal board of canvassers, with their keys, shall be delivered to the said boards.

The ballot boxes containing copies of the election returns intended for the Commission and the provincial boards of canvassers, with their keys, shall be submitted by the Election Assistant of the ffice of the EO to the office of the PES, using the fastest means of transportation available not later than twelve o'clock noon on August 27, 2002.

If within six hours of the first delivery, not all of the election returns from the precincts of the city or municipality have been submitted, the EO shall designate another personnel in his office who is trustworthy to receive and deliver the remaining copies of the election returns to the office of the PES.

In all instances, the EO and the Election Assistant shall observe and comply with the above procedure of delivering said copies of the election returns at intervals of six hours or shorter when possible until all the election returns in his jurisdiction are delivered to the office of the PES not later than August 28, 2002.

The most senior and able Election Assistant in the office of the PES shall receive the copies of the election returns delivered by the Election Assistants of the cities/municipalities of the province, issue proper receipt therefore and immediately submit said returns to the provincial board of canvassers. For purposes of transmitting copies of the election returns intended for the Commission, the PES shall designate the most senior Election Assistant to transmit the same to the Commission in Manila, within twelve hours from the first delivery, using the fastest means of transportation. Election returns which are received after the departure of said personnel of the Office of the PES shall be delivered to the Commission in Manila by another responsible personnel from the office of the PES within twelve hours from the first delivery.

In all instances, the PES shall see to it that the above procedure of delivering copies of the election returns at intervals of twelve hours or shorter when possible is faithfully complied with so that all election returns copy for the Commission are delivered not later than August 29, 2002.

In every case, delivery shall be undertaken with sufficient security escort and watchers of candidates, parties, organization or coalition.

ARTICLE VIII - CANVASSING OF VOTES

SEC. 55. ***Board of canvassers.*** - There shall be a Board of Canvassers (hereinafter referred to as BOC) in each city and municipality comprising the First District of Zamboanga del Norte, and a Provincial Board of Canvassers in the said province

SEC. 56. ***Supervision and control.*** - The Comelec shall exercise direct supervision and control over all boards of canvassers and may motu proprio relieve at any time any member thereof for cause and designate the substitute

SEC. 57. ***Composition of the BOC.*** - a) The Municipal Board of Canvassers (hereinafter referred to as MBOC) shall be composed of the Election Officer or a representative of the Comelec, as Chairman; the Municipal Treasurer, as Vice-Chairman, and the District School Supervisor, or in his absence, the most senior principal of the school district, as Member.

b) The City Board of Canvassers (hereinafter referred to as CBOC) shall be composed of the City Election Officer or a lawyer of the Comelec, as Chairman; the City Prosecutor, as Vice-Chairman; and the City Superintendent of Schools, as Member.

c) The Provincial Board of Canvassers (hereinafter referred to as PBOC) shall be composed of the Provincial Election Supervisor or a lawyer of the Comelec, as Chairman; the Provincial Prosecutor, as Vice-Chairman, and the Division Superintendent of Schools, as Member.

SEC. 58. ***Substitution of chairman and members of the BOC.*** - In case of non-availability, absence, disqualification due to relationship, or incapacity for any cause of a Chairman, who is required to be a lawyer, a ranking lawyer of the Comelec shall be appointed as substitute. With respect to the other members of the BOC, the Comelec shall appoint as substitute the following in the order named:

a. In the case of the Provincial Board of Canvassers:
The provincial auditor, the register of deeds, the clerk of court nominated by the executive judge of the Regional Trial Court, and any other available appointive provincial official.

b. In the case of the City Board of Canvassers:
The officials in the city corresponding to those enumerated above.

c. In the case of the Municipal Board of Canvassers:
The Municipal Administrator, the Municipal Assessor, the Clerk of Court of the Municipal Trial Court, or any other available appointive municipal officials.

The authority to appoint substitute members of the Boards shall be vested in the following:
a. Regional Election Director of Region IX, for the Provincial Board of Canvassers; and
b. Provincial Election Supervisor, for the City Board of Canvassers and Municipal Board of Canvassers

SEC. 60. ***Secretary of the BOC.*** - The DepEd representative shall act as secretary of the BOC, unless otherwise ordered by the Comelec. He shall prepare the minutes of the BOC by recording therein the proceedings and such other incidents or matters relevant to the canvass.

SEC. 61. ***Notice of meetings of the BOC.*** - Not later than August 21, 2002, the Chairman of the BOC shall give written notice to all members thereof and to each candidate, political party or coalition of political parties fielding candidates (hereinafter referred to as political party) of the date, time and place of the canvassing, which shall be held, unless otherwise ordered by the Comelec, in the session hall of the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan/Panlungsod/Bayan*.

Notices of the canvassing shall be posted in the offices of the Election Officer/Provincial Election Supervisor, as the case may be, and in conspicuous places in the building where the canvass will be held.

Similar notices shall also be given for subsequent meetings unless notice has been given in open session. Proof of service of notice to each member, candidate, political party fielding candidates shall be attached to and form part of the records of the proceedings. If notice is given in open session, such fact shall be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings.

Failure to give notice of the date, time and place of the meeting of the BOC is an election offense under Sec. 261 (aa) (1) of the Omnibus Election Code.

SEC. 62. ***Convening of the BOC.*** - The BOC shall meet at 6:00 o'clock in the evening of election day at the designated place to receive the Election Returns or the Certificate of Canvass, as the case may be, and to immediately canvass those that have already been received. It shall meet continuously from day to day until the canvass is completed, and may adjourn only for the purpose of awaiting the other Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass.

The proceedings of the BOC shall be open and public.

SEC. 63. ***Absence of a regular member of the BOC.*** - In case a regular member of the BOC is absent, the members present shall first verify whether notice has been served on the absent member. In case no such notice was sent, one shall be immediately served on the absent member. If the latter cannot be located or his whereabouts are unknown, he shall be substituted. These facts shall be recorded in the minutes of the BOC. As soon as the absent member appears, the substitute member shall relinquish his seat in favor of the regular member.

SEC. 64. ***Prohibited degree of relationship*** - The Chairman and Members of the BOC shall not be related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to each other or to any of the candidates whose votes will be canvassed by said BOC.

SEC. 65. ***Prohibition against leaving official station.*** - During the period beginning election day until the proclamation of the winning candidates, no member or substitute member of the BOC shall be transferred, assigned or detailed outside of his official station nor shall he leave said station without prior authority of the Commission.

SEC. 66. ***Feigned illness.*** - Any member of the BOC feigning illness in order to be substituted on election day until the proclamation of the winning candidates shall be guilty of an election offense.

SEC. 67. ***Incapacity of a regular member of the BOC.*** - In case of sickness or serious injury of a regular member of the BOC, a medical certificate shall be required attesting to the incapacity of said member. Upon submission of the medical certificate, a substitute shall be appointed. Said medical certificate shall be recorded in and form part of the minutes of the BOC.

SEC. 68. ***Quorum.*** - A majority of the members of the BOC shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority vote of all the members thereof shall be necessary to render a decision.

SEC. 69. ***Powers of the BOC.*** - The BOC shall have full authority to keep order within the canvassing room or hall including its premises and enforce obedience to its lawful orders. If any person shall refuse to obey any lawful order of the BOC or shall conduct himself in such disorderly manner as to disturb or interrupt its proceedings, the BOC may order in writing a peace officer/soldier to take such person into custody until adjournment of the meeting.

SEC. 70. ***Right to be present and to counsel during the canvass.*** - Every registered political party, through its representatives, and every candidate has the right to be present and to counsel during the canvass of the Election Returns or Certificate of Canvass: *Provided*, That only one counsel may argue for each party or candidate. They shall have the right to examine the Election Returns or Certificate of Canvass being canvassed without touching them, make observations thereon, and file their challenges in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Comelec. The BOC shall not allow any dilatory action.

SEC. 71. ***Watchers.*** - Each registered political party fielding candidates and candidate shall be entitled to one watcher in every canvassing center.

The citizens arm of the Comelec, and civic, religious, professional, business, service, youth and other similar organizations collectively, with prior authority of the Comelec, shall each be entitled to two (2) watchers to serve alternately.

A person convicted of any election offense or of any other crime or related to any member of the BOC within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity shall not be appointed as watcher.

Under no circumstance shall *barangay* officials including *barangay tanods* be appointed as watchers.

The watchers shall have the right to:
a. Be present at, and take note of, all the proceedings of the BOC;
b. Stay behind the Chairman of the BOCnear enough to be able to read the Election Returns/ Certificate of Canvass without touching said documents; and
c. File a protest against any irregularity noted in the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass and obtain from the BOC a resolution thereon in writing.

Watchers shall not be allowed to participate in the deliberation of the BOC.

SEC. 72. ***Persons not allowed inside the canvassing room.*** - During the canvassing, it shall be unlawful for the following to enter the room where the canvass is being held or to stay within a radius of fifty (50) meters from such room:
a. Any officer or member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;
b. Any officer or member of the Philippine National Police;
c. Any peace officer or any armed or unarmed persons belonging to an extra-legal police agency, special forces, strike forces, or civilian armed forces geographical units (CAFGU);
d. Any *barangay tanod* or any member of *barangay* self-defense units;
e. Any member of the security or police organizations of government agencies, commissions, councils, bureaus, offices, instrumentalities, or government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries, or
f. Any member of a privately owned or operated security, investigative, protective or intelligence agency performing identical or similar functions.

Whenever necessary however, the BOC, by majority vote, may direct in writing for the detail of policemen or peace officers for their protection or for the protection of the election documents and paraphernalia, or for the maintenance of peace and order, in which case said policemen or peace officers, who shall be in proper uniform, shall stay outside the room but near enough to be easily called by the BOC at any time.

SEC. 73. ***Safekeeping of transmitted election returns or certificate of canvass.*** - The BOC shall place the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass in ballot boxes that shall be locked with three padlocks and one serially numbered self-locking fixed-length seal. The members of the BOC shall each keep a key to the three padlocks. The serial number of every fixed-length seal shall be entered in the minutes.

The said ballot boxes shall be kept in a safe and secured room before, during and after the canvass. The room shall be locked with three padlocks with the keys thereof kept by each member of the BOC.

The watchers shall have the right to guard the room.

SEC. 74. ***Reception and Custody Group.*** - The CBOC/MBOC shall constitute a Reception and Custody Group (RCG) composed of three members, consisting of one (1) representative from each member of the BOC. All the candidates shall be notified in writing of the constitution of RCG so that they can designate their watchers in the RCG. The RCG shall be under the direct supervision and control by the BOC. The names of the members of the RCG, the BOC members they represent shall be properly recorded in the minutes of the proceedings. In no case shall a casual employee or employees of the Office of the Provincial Governor, City/Municipal Mayor, *Punong Barangay*, or the corresponding *Sanggunians* be appointed/ designated to serve as a member of the RCG.

SEC. 75. ***Tabulation group.*** - The BOC shall constitute a tabulation group (hereinafter referred to as group) composed of two members, which shall be under the direct supervision and control of the BOC.

The group shall compute the sub-total of the Statement of Votes (SOV) prepared by the BOC. The names of each tabulator in the group and the SOV assigned to it for tabulation shall be properly recorded in the minutes of the proceedings.

In no case shall a casual employee or an employee of the Office of the Provincial Governor, City/ Municipal Mayor, *Punong Barangay*, or their corresponding *Sanggunians* be appointed/designated to serve as member of the tabulation group.

SEC. 76. ***Canvassing procedure.*** - The BOC shall comply with the following rules:
a) The BOC, through its Reception and Custody Group (RCG), shall receive the Election Returns/ Certificate of Canvass and maintain a log of all Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass received and canvassed. Said log shall include the:
   1. Time and date of receipt;
   2. Corresponding precinct number in case of Election Returns, or city/municipality in case of Certificate of Canvass;
   3. Serial number of the envelope and paper seal; and
   4. Condition of the envelope and paper seal.
b) The RCG shall place all envelopes containing Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass received by it inside a ballot box. When the ballot box is already full or when there are no more election returns/certificate of canvass to be received, the RCG shall close the ballot box and lock the same with padlock and fixed length seal. The RCG shall submit the locked ballot box to the BOC, together with the list of precinct numbers or city/municipality of the Election Returns/ Certificate of Canvass contained therein. For this purpose, the RCG shall maintain a record of the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass submitted to the BOC.
c) Upon receipt of the ballot box containing the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass, the BOC shall examine the condition of the ballot box and the fixed-length seal. The secretary shall record in its Minutes the condition and serial number of both ballot box and the fixed-length seal.
d) The BOC shall open the ballot box to ascertain that the precinct numbers or cities/municipalities indicated in the envelopes being retrieved correspond to the list submitted by the RCG.
e) The secretary shall record in its Minutes the quantity of envelopes received and their condition and serial numbers; the condition and serial numbers of the paper seal; and their corresponding precinct numbers, in case of Election Returns, or the city or municipality, in case of Certificate of Canvass.
f) Before opening each envelope, the BOC shall exhibit the same to the counsel and watchers present.
g) After the envelope is opened, the BOC shall retrieve the Election Return/Certificate of Canvass and exhibit the same to the counsel and watchers present.
h) The BOC shall examine the condition of the inner paper seal and the secretary shall record in the Minutes the condition and serial number of the paper seal.
i) The BOC shall break open the inner seal, unfold the Election Return/Certificate of Canvass and exhibit the same to the counsel and watchers present.
j) The secretary shall record in the Minutes the condition and serial number of the Election Return/ Certificate of Canvass.
k) If there is no objection to the inclusion of the Election Return/Certificate of Canvass in the canvass, the BOC shall proceed to canvass the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass by entering in the SOV, the votes obtained by each candidate as they are read. For purposes of preparing the SOV, the BOC shall divide the number of copies of the SOV and accomplish the same simultaneously.
l) If there is an objection to the inclusion of the Election Return/Certificate of Canvass in the canvass, the BOC shall note said objection in the Minutes and proceed to canvass the Election Return/Certificate of Canvass.

For purposes of preparing the SOV, the following terms are used:
1. ***Sub-total*** - sum of all votes obtained by each candidate when all the columns of a set of SOV are filled. The sub-total shall be recorded in the last column indicated in the SOV.
2. ***Page partial total*** - sum of votes obtained by each candidate appearing in one page of the SOV, when some columns are not filled at the time of adjournment/suspension of canvass. This shall be recorded on the box immediately after the last entry of votes at the time of adjournment/ suspension of canvass. When all Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass have been canvassed, and the columns of the last page of the SOV are not filled, the page partial total shall be considered as the sub-total.
3. ***Provisional total*** - accumulated total of all votes obtained by each candidate as of the time of adjournment/suspension of canvass, for the purpose of releasing results to mass media and other interested parties. This shall not appear in the SOV.
4. ***Summary of votes*** - listing of all sub-totals reflected in each set of SOV. This shall be recorded in a separate set of SOV by entering in each column the sub-totals per set of SOV.
5. ***Grand total*** - sum of all sub-totals of votes obtained by each candidate as listed in the summary of votes.

m) Immediately after an Election Return/Certificate of Canvass has been canvassed, the Chairman of the BOC shall write on its upper right hand corner the word "CANVASSED" and affix below it his signature and the date of canvass.
The canvassed Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass shall be returned to their corresponding envelopes.
n) After all the columns of the SOV are filled:
   1. The two members of the BOC shall compare the entries contained in their respective copies. If there are discrepancies in the entries, they shall refer to the corresponding Election Return/Certificate of Canvass and make the necessary correction.
   2. The BOC shall print their names and affix their signatures above their names. Thereafter, the BOC shall forward the SOV to the tabulation group, together with the Election Returns/ Certificate of Canvass it canvassed.
o) Upon receipt of the SOV and Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass, the tabulation group shall:
   1. Compute using an adding machine the sub-total of the votes obtained by each candidate from the SOV prepared separately by the BOC;
   2. Verify the accuracy of the entries in the adding machine tape as against the entries in the SOV. If the are discrepancies in the adding machine tape, they shall make the necessary corrections;
   3. Print their names and affix their signatures above their printed names, and imprint their thumbmarks on the certification portion thereof, and
   4. Forward the signed SOV together with the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass to the BOC.
p) Upon receipt of the SOV together with the corresponding Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass, the BOC shall:
   1. Prepare a summary of the votes obtained by each candidate by entering therein all the sub-totals contained in each page of an SOV;
   2. Print their names and affix their signatures above their printed names and imprint their thumbmarks on the certification portion of the SOV;
   3. Return, in the presence of the watchers, if any, the SOV inside the ballot box together with the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass already canvassed. When the ballot box is already full, it shall be closed and locked with padlocks and metal seal. The keys corresponding to the three padlocks shall each be kept by the members of the BOC. The locked ballot box shall be kept and preserved in a secured room under the custody of the Chairman of the BOC until further order by the Comelec, and
   4. Follow the above procedure until all the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass have been canvassed and the sub-totals have been entered in the summary of votes.
s) After the summary of votes has been completed, the BOC shall forward the same to the tabulation group.
t) Upon receipt of the summary of votes, the tabulation group shall:
   1. Compute the grand total by adding all the sub-totals;
   2. Record the grand total of votes obtained by each candidate; and
   3. Accomplish the certification portion by affixing their signatures above their printed names and imprinting their thumbmarks thereon.
   4. Forward the summary of votes to the BOC.
u) Upon receipt of the summary of votes, the BOC shall:
   1. Affix their signatures above their printed names and imprint their thumbmarks on the certification portion thereof;
   2. Prepare a certificate of canvass;
   3. Require the watchers, if any, to affix their signatures and thumbmarks on the certificate of canvass; and
   4. Distribute the certificate of canvass, together with the SOV, in the manner prescribed hereunder.

SEC. 77. ***Adjournment/suspension of canvass.*** - A. In case of adjournment or suspension of canvass:
a) When the columns of the SOV are:
   1. **Not all filled**, the BOC, shall indicate the page partial total of votes obtained by each candidate and close the same by affixing their initials. The SOV shall be placed in the ballot box provided in item (c) hereunder;
   2. **Filled**, the tabulator shall indicate the sub-total as provided under item (p) of the immediately preceding Section.
b) A provisional total shall be made available to mass media and other interested parties.
c) The remaining unopened envelopes and SOV containing the page partial total shall be placed in the ballot box provided for the purpose which shall be locked with three padlocks and self-locking metal seals. The members of the BOC shall keep the keys to each padlock.
d) The serial number of the metal seal and the quantity of the remaining unopened envelopes shall be recorded in the minutes.

B. Upon resumption of the canvass:
a) The secretary of the BOC shall verify and enter in the minutes the condition of the three padlocks and the metal seal, as well as its serial number.
b) The BOC shall then, in the presence of the watchers, open the ballot box, retrieve the partially filled SOV and the unopened envelopes containing the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass not yet canvassed, and proceed with the canvass until all Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass are canvassed.

In accomplishing the Certificate of Canvass, the SOV and other forms, all the members of the BOC, including the tabulation group, shall see to it that the impression on the first copy of the set is recorded on each and every page thereof.

SEC. 78. ***When the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass are delayed, lost or destroyed.*** - In case its copy of the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass is missing, the BOC shall, by authorized messenger, immediately obtain the same from the BEI/BOC concerned, or if the said Election Returns/ Certificate of Canvass has been lost or destroyed, the BOC, upon prior authority of the Comelec, may use any of the authentic copies thereof or a certified copy of said Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass issued by the Comelec, and forthwith direct its representative to investigate the case and immediately report the matter to the Comelec.

SEC. 79. ***Material defects in the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass.*** - If it should clearly appear that some requisite in form or data have been omitted in the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass, the BOC shall call for all the members of the BEI/BOC concerned by the most expeditious means to effect the corrections: *Provided*, That in case of the omission in the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass of the name of any candidate and/or his corresponding votes, the Board shall require the BEI/BOC concerned to complete the necessary data in the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass and affix therein their initials: *Provided*, further, That if the votes omitted in the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass cannot be ascertained by other means except by recounting the ballots, the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass shall be set aside and such fact shall be reported to the Comelec which shall proceed as provided in Sec. 234 of the Omnibus Election Code.

SEC. 80. ***When Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass appear to be tampered with or falsified.*** - If the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass submitted to the BOC appear to be tampered with, altered or falsified after they have left the hands of the BEI/BOC concerned or otherwise not authentic, or were prepared under duress, force, intimidation, or prepared by persons other than the members of the BEI/ BOC concerned, the BOC shall use the other copies of said Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass. If necessary, the copy of the Election Returns inside the ballot box which upon previous authority given by the Comelec may be retrieved in accordance with Sec. 220 of the Omnibus Election Code. If the other copies of the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass are likewise tampered with, altered, falsified, not authentic, prepared under duress, force or intimidation, or prepared by persons other than the members of the BEI/ BOC, the BOC or any candidate affected shall bring the matter to the attention of the Comelec which shall proceed as provided in Sec.235 of the Omnibus Election Code.

SEC. 81. ***Discrepancies in Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass.*** - In case it appears to the BOC that there exist discrepancies in the other authentic copies of the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass from a polling place or discrepancies in the votes of any candidate in words and figures in the same Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass and in either case they affect the results of the election, the BOC shall not canvass the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass and shall submit the matter to the Comelec which shall proceed as provided in Sec. 236 of the Omnibus Election Code.

In case there exist discrepancies in the votes of any candidate in tally *(tara)* as against the votes obtained in words or in figures in the same Election Returns, the votes in the tally *(tara)* shall prevail.

SEC. 82. ***Canvass to be completed at earliest possible time.*** - Subject to reasonable exceptions, the BOC must complete its canvass within twenty-four (24) hours in the city/municipalities and forty-eight (48) hours in the district.

The PBOC, notwithstanding the fact that not all the Certificate of Canvass have been received by it, may terminate the canvass and proclaim the candidate elected on the basis of the available Certificate of Canvass if the missing Certificate of Canvass will not affect the results of the election.

SEC. 83. ***Submission of the minutes of the proceedings of the BOC.*** - Within forty-eight hours from the termination of canvass, the secretary of the BOC shall submit to the Law Department of the Comelec in Manila by *registered mail* a certified copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the BOC and shall notify by *telegram* the same department of the date and manner of transmittal of the minutes, indicating therein the registry receipt number.

SEC. 84. ***Pre-proclamation cases not allowed.*** - No pre-proclamation case shall be allowed on matters relating to the preparation, transmission, receipt, custody and appreciation of the Election Returns/ Certificate of Canvass, as the case may be. However, this does not preclude the authority of the BOC to *motu proprio* or upon written complaint of an interested person correct manifest errors in the Election Return/ Certificate of Canvass before it.

Any objection on the Election Returns/Certificate of Canvass shall be specifically noted in the minutes of the BOC.

SEC. 85. ***Manifest error.*** - There is manifest error in the tabulation or tallying of the results during the canvassing where:
1. A copy of the Election Returns or Certificate of Canvass was tabulated more than once;
2. Two or more copies of the Election Returns of one precinct, or two or more copies of Certificate of Canvass were tabulated separately;
3. There was a mistake in the copying of the figures from the Election Return/Certificate of Canvass into the SOV;
4. Returns from non-existent precincts were included in the canvass; or
5. There was a mistake in the addition of the votes of any candidate.

SEC. 86. ***Contested proceedings; period to appeal.*** - Parties adversely affected by a ruling of the BOC on questions affecting the composition or proceedings of the Board may appeal the matter to the Comelec within three (3) days from the date of the ruling.

CITY/MUNICIPAL BOARD OF CANVASSERS

SEC. 87. ***Duties and functions of the city/municipal board of canvassers.*** - The Municipal Board of Canvassers (MBOC) or City BOC (CBOC) shall canvass the Election Returns and prepare in seven (7) copies, the Certificate of Canvass of Votes (CEF No. 20).

SEC. 88. ***Distribution of certificate of canvass.*** - The Certificate of Canvass (CEF No. 20) shall be distributed as follows:
1. The first copy to the Provincial Board of Canvassers;
2. The second copy to the Comelec;
3. The third copy to be kept by the Chairman of the MBOC/CBOC;
4. The fourth copy to the citizens arm designated by the Comelec to conduct a media-based unofficial count; and
5. The fifth, sixth and seventh copies to the first three of the six accredited political parties which shall furnish the other three accredited political parties with authentic copies thereof at the least possible delay.

The Certificate of Canvass prepared by the MBOC/CBOC shall each be supported by a SOV by precinct, signed and thumbmarked by the members thereof and the watchers of the six accredited major political parties, if available. Thereafter, they shall each be sealed and placed inside their corresponding envelopes, which shall likewise be sealed.

PROVINCIAL BOARD OF CANVASSERS

SEC. 89. ***Duties and functions of the provincial board of canvassers.*** - The Provincial Board of Canvassers (PBOC) shall canvass the Certificate of Canvass (CEF No. 20) submitted by the MBOC/CBOC. Upon completion of the canvass the PBOC shall prepare the Certificate of Canvass and Proclamation of Winning Candidate for Member of the House of Representatives (CEF No. 22), and proclaim the winning candidate for Member of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 90. ***Certificate of canvass of votes and proclamation of winning candidate for Member of the House of Representatives.*** - The Certificate of Canvass and Proclamation of Winning Candidate for Member of the House of Representatives (CEF No. 22) shall be prepared in four (4) copies and distributed as follows:
1. The first copy to the Comelec in Manila;
2. The second copy to be kept by the Chairman of the PBOC;
3. The third copy to the candidate proclaimed; and
4. The fourth copy for posting on the bulletin board of the provincial capitol.

The first and the second copies shall be individually folded and placed in their corresponding envelopes together with a copy of the SOV by city/municipality.

SEC. 91. ***Special procedures.*** - The express provisions of this resolution notwithstanding, the Commission may in exceptional cases, adopt special procedures in the transmission, storage, custody, distribution and retrieval of accountable forms and paraphernalia to fulfill its constitutional mandate to ensure free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections.

SEC. 92. ***Effectivity.*** - This resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 93. ***Dissemination.*** - The Education and Information Department shall furnish the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, the Department of Finance, the Regional Election Director of Region IX, the Provincial Election Supervisor of Zamboanga del Norte, the Election Officers concerned, the Division Superintendent and City Superintendent of Schools and the City and Municipal Treasurers in the First District of Zamboanga del Norte, with copies of the Resolution and cause the publication thereof in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation.

Let the Deputy Executive Director for Operations implement this Resolution.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, Sr.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S. B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON Jr.
Commissioner

ANNEX 'A'

CANVASSING FORMS			
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20-A-1	STATEMENT OF VOTES BY MUNICIPALITY - LOCAL	1	SET OF 3 COPIES
20	CERTIFICATE OF CANVASS FOR CITY/MUNICIPAL BOARD OF CANVASSERS	1	SET OF 6 COPIES
22	CERTIFICATE OF CANVASS AND PROCLAMATION OF WINNING CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	1	SET OF 4 SHEETS
13-A	CERT OF VOTES RECEIVED BY CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF CANVASSERS	58	PIECES
14-A	CERT OF RECEIPT OF CANVASSING FORMS BY CITY/MUN/PROVL/DIST TREAS	1	SET OF 2 COPIES
21-A	OFFICIAL RECEIPT OF CERT OF CANVASS TO BE ISSUED BY THE PROVINCIAL BOARD OF CANVASSERS	1	SET OF 2 COPIES
ENVELOPE FOR CANVASSING			
	FOR CEF 20 AND 20-A	1	SET OF 8 PCS.
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Wilfredo E. Dumlao was extrajudicially settled by his heirs before Notary Public J. Reine Rhea L. Bunoan of Quezon City under Doc. No. 793, Page No. 159, Book No. X, Series of 2002. *(PDI-Aug. 8, 15 & 22, 2002)*

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late John S. Rosado Sr., was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per extrajudicial settlement with WAIVER Doc. No. 100, Page No. 21, Book No. II, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Jose C. Cahla of Makati
PDI- Aug. 22,29, Sept 5, 2002

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost Stock Cert. MANUEL L. QUEZON UNIV. Nos. (7) 16524 (1) 17565 (4) 19245 (10) 21019 (36) 22402 (24) 24411 all in the name of Lydia S. Jacinto. If no contest is received new Cert. will be issued. (PDI- August 8, 15 & 22 2002)

PERSONAL

THANK YOU VERY MUCH HOLY SPIRIT FR. Eric & Oda DEL ROSARIO

Republic of the Philippines
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 8
Tacloban City

INVITATION TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) invites interested parties to participate in the sealed bidding for the lease of the Ground Floor of the People's Center and Library as venue for "Christmas Bazaar and Trade Exhibit" from **November 15, 2002** to **January 15, 2003**, located at Real Street, Tacloban City.

The bidding guidelines will be available from PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, Third Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City and at the PCGG Regional Office, Nipa Hut, Jones Street, Tacloban City, starting **August 22, 2002**. For inquiries, please contact Darwin Altea, Tel. No. 726-0034 and Renor O. Dauag, Tel. No. (053) 321-3413.

Bids will be received, opened and tabulated after their submission at 10:00 AM on **September 3, 2002** in the presence of the bidders at the PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, Third Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) RENOR O. DAUAG
Officer-In-Charge
PCGG, Region 8

(PDI – Aug. 22, 23 & 24, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

AN INVITATION TO ALL WOULD-BE GASOLINE STATION OWNERS/OPERATORS

We are conducting the first training/seminar on:

"SKILLS AND MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR GAS STATION OWNERS/OPERATORS"

to be held on August 26-28, 2002
at the Department of Energy Audio Visual Room
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila

The Department of Energy (DOE) is proud to present its program to support and encourage entities to establish new independent gasoline stations nationwide. The training aims to equip would-be gas station owners/operators management and entrepreneurial skills to ensure economic and technical viability in the operation and maintenance of a gasoline station as well as compliance to quality, health, environmental and safety standards.

For more information, please call:
Mr. Sherwin T. Casidsid or Mr. Ruben P. Perez
Tel. No. 840-5669; 840-2114

Seminar Schedule and contact numbers for the Visayas and Mindanao are as follows:

Visayas (Cebu City)	September 4-6, 2002	(032) 253-2150; (032) 253-3459
Mindanao (Davao City)	September 18-20, 2002	(082) 224-2231; (082) 224-0741

Seminar Fee is P4,500.00

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING TOURIST AND VISITING RELATIVE VISAS

The new system will be introduced for the convenience of the applicants. Beginning 02 September 2002, individuals applying for TOURIST and VISITING RELATIVE VISAS may do so directly at the designated windows.

This change is only relevant to those individuals applying in Manila.

Accordingly, the DROP BOX SYSTEM will be TERMINATED on **30 August 2002.**

Please visit our website for more visa-related information:
http://www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp

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OBITUARIES

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*For more information, please call your funeral director

MESSAGE OF THANKS

The family of the late

Doña Aniceta Larrazabal y Veloso

Died in the grace of our Lord on August 14, 2002 at the age of 91.

Loving wife of

Don Potenciano Larrazabal y Ablen *(†)*

We thank and sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

Her children
Benita** and **Lirio Macatual
Emeterio** (†) and **Adelina Ysrastorza
Dr. Potenciano Jr.** and **Zenaida Sto. Domingo
*Board Member **Arturo** and **Elpha Elorza***
Eduardo** (†) and **Zosima Alicia Yubico
*Congresswoman **Maria Victoria** and Mayor **Carmelo Locsin***
Ramon** and **Geraldine Bagaporo

Her only living sibling **Herminia C. Veloso**

In Loving Memory
of

ELSA P. PELAEZ

(August 10, 1910- August 22, 1992)

and

RODOLFO N. PELAEZ

(January 3, 1912- August 10, 1980)

FOUNDERS, LICEO DE CAGAYAN UNIVERSITY
Cagayan de Oro City

Masses will be offered at the following churches in Cagayan de Oro City:

Church	Time
Sacred Heart Church	6:00 a.m.
Mt. Carmel Church	5:30 p.m.
San Agustin Cathedral	5:30 p.m.
Divine Shepherd Memorial Gardens	8:00 a.m.

The family requests those whose lives they touched to say a prayer for their eternal rest.

"One thing I seek... to dwell in the house of the Lord all the rest of my life."

In Loving Memory
on the
Third Death Anniversary
of

EDWIN JOSEPH MALLARI LOPEZ

(September 27, 1970 - August 22, 1999)

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Minor Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel Tayabas, Quezon	6:00 AM
San Isidro Labrador Parish Pulilan, Bulacan	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Iyam, Lucena City	5:30 PM
St. Ferdinand Cathedral Lucena City	6:00 AM
San Pedro Cathedral Davao City	12:00 PM
St. Andrew Parish Parañaque City	6:15 AM
Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows, Quezon City	7:00 PM
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan Greenhills, San Juan	6:15 AM
St. James Parish Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa	6:00 AM
St. Claire Monastery Sariaya, Quezon	6:00 AM

His parents **Ernie & Fritzie Lopez**; brother **Jonathan**; sister **Catherine**; and son **Carlos Miguel**, request the pious readers to continue praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

*On her **THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY,***
we lovingly remember
***MOMMY**, WHO IS*
***FOREVER** IN OUR HEARTS...*
***SORELY MISSED** BY ALL OF US.*

ENCARNACION "NENA" LOVINA TICZON

(***wife*** **of the late Atty. Romeo Reyes Ticzon, Sr.** and ***eldest daughter*** of the **late Statesman, Banker, FIRST MAYOR OF PASAY CITY, Founder of RFC now called DBP Don Primitivo "Tibing" Lovina Sr.** and the **late Doña Ruperta Herrero Lovina**)

1997 Gintong Sikap Awardee
(Federation of Filipino Consumers, Inc.)

1997 Gintong Ina Awardee
(Parangal ng Bayan Awards)

1997 Highest Achievement Awardee
(New Life on Family Development & Youth Council, Inc.)

1998 Golden Heart Public Service Awardee
(Development of Filipino Youth, Inc.)

who died in the Grace of our Lord on August 23, 1999 3:40 A.M. at Makati Medical Center at the age of 78.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches tomorrow, August 23, 2002

National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary ..... ***5:00 A.M.***
Sto. Domingo, Quezon City

Mt. Carmel Shrine ..... ***6:00 A.M.***
Doña J. Rodriguez Street, New Manila, Quezon City

St. Francis Parish Church ..... ***6:00 A.M.***
Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

Sanctuario de San Antonio ..... ***6:15 A.M.***
McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church ..... ***6:15 A.M.***
Magallanes Village, Makati City

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish ..... ***6:30 A.M.***
Kalayaan Avenue, Bel-Air II, Makati City

Immaculate Concepcion Parish ..... ***6:30 A.M.***
P. Burgos Street, Antipolo, Rizal

Parish of Our Lady of Fatima ..... ***6:30 A.M.***
Rodriguez Avenue & Capinpin Street, Bangkal, Makati City

Redemptorist Church ..... ***6:45 A.M.***
Baclaran, Manila

St. John Bosco Parish ..... ***7:30 A.M.***
Arnaiz Street, Makati City

Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace ..... ***12:15 P.M.***
Our Lady of EDSA, Quezon City

Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene ..... ***5:00 P.M.***
Quiapo, Manila

Harrison Plaza Chapel ..... ***5:30 P.M.***
Harrison Plaza Shopping City, Malate, Manila

Malate Catholic Church ..... ***6:00 P.M.***
2000 M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila

Mary the Queen Parish ..... ***6:00 P.M.***
Madison Street, Greenhills, San Juan

Christ the King Parish ..... ***6:00 P.M.***
Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City

Our Lady of Assumption Parish ..... ***6:15 P.M.***
Asuncion Street, Malate, Manila

Sanctuario de San Jose ..... ***6:15 P.M.***
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

Her CHILDREN, IN-LAWS, GRANDCHILDREN and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN,

- ***JULIETA***
- ***ROMEO, JR.*** *and LEONY DASCO and their children ROSSANA, ARLENE, VINCENT, ADOLF and JULIUS*
- ***OPHELIA*** *and BENNY T. CLEMENTE and their daughters JACLYN, RACHELLE and SUZANNE*
- ***OTHELLO*** *and LIZA ROÑO and their children RAYMUND and ABIGAIL, MA. LUISA, MILAGROS, MELISSA, TANIA ISABEL and ROMEO III*
- ***BELEN*** *and ANTONIO V. MARTEL. JR. and their daughter ANTONIA*
- ***ROSSINA***
- ***LOURDES*** *and EDGAR MARTIN and their children MIGUEL, ANTONIO and DEIRDRÉ*
- ***PORTIA*** *and RAMON B. SANTOS and their children RAPHAEL, PAULINE and GABRIEL*
- ***RUBEN*** *(deceased),*

***STEPMOTHER**, NELLY MONTILLA VDA. DE LOVINA,*

***BROTHERS**, TEDDY H. LOVINA and*
NONIE M. LOVINA,

***BROTHERS IN LAW**, BERT ACOSTA and*
CONRADO R. TICZON,

***SISTERS**, NING LOVINA-VILLAR and*
CHING LOVINA-ACOSTA,

***SISTERS IN LAW**, DING MATIAS VDA. DE LOVINA,*
SYLVIA RICARD-LOVINA,
NORMA DE GUZMAN VDA. DE LOVINA,
ISABEL VALLES-LOVINA and
MARYLOU PRIETO VDA. DE LOVINA

WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR SINCEREST THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO KEEP HER IN THEIR PRAYERS.

Dr. Jesus Keyser Mercado

has rejoined his loving wife **Rosario E. Peñalosa** †; his brother **Vicente** † and his sister **Carmen Mercado Calma** †

and now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 18th of August, 2002, at the age of 90.

His children **Pilar**, **Severino**, **Erlinda**, **Vicente**, **George** •, **Carmen Leonor**, **Natividad** and **Teresita**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel of his residence in Pag-Asa Farms, Kapalong, Davao del Norte.

The funeral mass will be celebrated at the Chapel of Davao Memorial Park, Davao City at 10:00 a.m. of the 27th of August, 2002 prior to cremation. Thereafter, his ashes will be brought to the Chapel of his residence in Pag-Asa Farms, Kapalong, Davao del Norte.

In lieu of flowers, the family will appreciate donations to TAGUM FRIENDS OF THE HOME FOUNDATION INC., HOME FOR THE AGED.

Message of Thanks

The family of the late

ROMEO "Romy" R. GAGUI

Director of Maritime Industry Authority
Region IV, Batangas City

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 6, 2002

sincerely thank all those who offered Masses and Prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, gave generous gifts, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites, and those who extended their support and services in countless ways, during our hour of bereavement.

We find strength in knowing Romy was very much loved.

His memory will live on in our hearts and minds of all of us whose lives he has touched.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

TOLOMEO L. SANTIAGO

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Pasig City Mayor **Soledad Eusebio** and Council and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Atty. MILAGROS ALUYEN-ARLEGUI

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 19, 2002 at the age of 72.

She is now home in God's eternal bosom, there to live in peace and perfection with her husband **Judge JESUS P. ARLEGUI,**

her children:

Joyce & Rey, Grace Ann & Dennis
Susan & Mon, Mafe, Jess Antonio & Marivic
Jess Francisco & Jean, Jemi & Lhet
Cathy & Jerome and J. Andrew

her grandchildren:

Denise, Vince, Trina, Irene, Abby, Maze
Paolo, Arianne, Marni, Leal Angelo
Toni, Maikee, Jamie and LJ

relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A, Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on August 25, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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635-0220

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in verdant pastures.
In restful waters He leads me.
Her refreshes my soul."

Psalm 23

ALICIA G. SAN PEDRO

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 19, 2002 at the age of 69.

Her loving husband **Engr. Vicente R. San Pedro, Jr.**; her children **Mel** & **Manny**, **Myrna** & **Mark**, **Maria** & **Carlos**, **Marivic** & **Robert James**, **Marissa** & **Victor**, **Miriam**, and **Vincent** & **Joy**; her grandchildren **JP**, **JV**, **Lilet**, **Evin**, **Janina**, **RJ**, **MJ**, **Kim**, **Ace**, **Mico**, **Marco**, **Julia** and **Jovi**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Christ the King Church in Green Meadows, Quezon City. She will be transferred to the Eternal Gardens Chapel in Dagupan City on August 23, 2002.

Interment will be on August 25, 2002 in Dagupan City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Eternal Gardens, Dagupan City.

"In memory of BOYET who loved life and yet touched many lives because of his simplicity and humbleness. You will be greatly missed."

DR. ANTONIO FAUSTO SANTOS JR.

Died peacefully in the grace of our Lord . on August 21, 2002 at the age of 42.

His loving wife **Vilma**; children **Dregzil John**, **Desmond Anthony**, **Desiree Janille**; parents **Dr. Antonio Sr.** & **Rufina**; parents-in-law **Judge Antonio Tiong** & **Agustina**; brother and sisters **Teresa Ana** & **Marco Gosiengfiao**, **Ma. Rita** & **Angel Angeles**, **Alberto Jose**, **Ma. Cecilia** & **James Acero**, **Ma. Carmela** & **Paul Nabong**; nephews and nieces **Marquis**, **Cheska**, **Yanna**, **Raya**, **Rian**, **Marian**, **Gie-An**, **Maii** & **Tristan**; other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Enriquez Funeral Parlor on F. Tañedo Street, Tarlac City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 24, 2002 at the Eternal Memorial Park after the 9:00 AM Mass at the Tarlac Cemetery.

"You will be missed but memories of your love and affection will live with us forever."

Our Dearly Beloved

ANASTACIA DENOGA SISON

Retired Principal of Camiling West Elementary School, Camiling, Tarlac and Mangga Elementary School, Sta. Mesa, Manila

Peacefully joined her Creator and His Angels on Tuesday, August 20, 2002 at the age of 93.

Her loving husband **Gerardo** (†); children **Nemy** and **Wina**, **Elsie**, **Lolalie** and **Ruben**, **Gerry, Jr.** (†), **Miroan** and **Danny**, and **Frances**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to please remember her in your prayers.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 24, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:30 a.m. Funeral Mass.

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Duo piano performance for St. Cecilia Hall shell

TWO YEARS ago, the beautifully refurbished and restored St. Cecilia's Hall was inaugurated. The P44-million hall was fully funded by generous donations from music patrons and Scholastican alumni and their families. The authentic art-deco auditorium, originally designed and built by famed architect Andres Luna San Pedro in the 1930s, was officially designated as an historical marker by the National Historical Institute in August 1999. Furthermore, St. Cecilia's Hall has become the home of the Manila Symphony Orchestra II. Since its inauguration July 2000, the hall has been used for countless concerts, theater productions, and shows. Although it looks finished, a final touch has been left out due to lack of funds. This is the acoustic shell that has to be installed at the back portion of the stage to give the best sound possible.

To assist in raising funds for this cause, internationally acclaimed pianists Nena del Rosario and Reynaldo Reyes have teamed up to appear pro bono in a duo piano performance with a repertoire only talents of their caliber can justify. This once-in-a-lifetime concert will be held at St. Cecilia's Hall on Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. Their repertoire will consist of Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story" and Piazzola's "Libertango", "Adios Nonino" and "Le Gran Tango". This concert is sponsored by the St. Scholastica's Music Alumni Association under the chairmanship of Josephine Knox, Menchu Padilla and Mindy Perez-Rubio.

St. Scholastica's College carries with it a tradition that spans almost a century. Sr. Baptista Battig OSB, the founder of St. Scholastica's School of Music, was the first educator in piano under whose tutelage emanated the best music teachers in the Philippines who later founded other great music schools in the country.

Tickets are available at the Lyric Piano Store branches in SM North Edsa, SM Megamall and Alabang Town Center, Ima Restaurant on Julia Vargas, Ortigas Center, San Antonio Parish Center, Forbes Park, Makati, Makati Garden Club, corner Edsa and Ayala Avenue, and St. Scholastica's Music Department. For more information, call 526-8080 or 844-2017.

NENA DEL ROSARIO VILLANUEVA, the first acknowledged Filipino prodigy, making her orchestral debut at the age of 10. She graduated with an Artists' diploma from Curtis Institute of Music and took lessons under Vladimir Horowitz. She has performed with the top symphony orchestras of the world—New York Philharmonic, Japan Philharmonic, and Orchestra de Madrid. In 1997, she received the Cultural Center of the Philippines' highest award for Music, the CCP Gawad for Music in recognition of her extraordinary talent and contribution to the cultural life in the Philippines. She has had numerous solo performances around the world, the most recent at the Musee de l'Armee at Invalides, Paris.

QUALITY CIRCLES

Sharp (Philippines) Corp.'s Auto Mechanics Circle won the Production Category gold medal in the 2002 Quality Circles regional competition held recently at the Manila Midtown Hotel, Ermita. The circle also was qualified to represent the Luzon chapter of the Quality Circles Practitioners Association (QCPA) in the 2002 Search for the Most Outstanding Circle and Team Projects in the Productivity Improvement Circles National Convention (PICNC) to be held at the Fontana Resort in the former Clark Air Base from Oct. 9 to 12. The event was participated in by various companies practicing Total Quality Circles (TQC). 'Total Quality Management', a theory first successfully implemented by the Japanese in the 1950s, is a system of continuous improvement employing participative management centered on the needs of customers. Sharp, a leading manufacturer of visual, audio and home appliances, practices TQM principles.

MMDA CHAIR AT IABC MEET

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, Marikina's 'miracle worker', describes how he intends to clean up the city and smoothen the flow of traffic to International Association of Business Communicators (Philippines) members (from right) Rey David, Bong Osorio, chapter president Roni Tapia-Merk, Mon Bermeo, and Art Cariaga. Fernando said he needed the public's support when he spoke at the IABC general membership meeting Aug. 5 at the Filipinas Heritage Library on Makati Avenue.

Teens swing to 'Spirits in Harmony'

Spirits in Harmony Interschool Choreographed Chorale Competition had an official kick off in a party sponsored by Modess Spirit at Street Life Aug. 3.

Teens partied the night away in celebration of the opening of Spirits in Harmony Year 3, an event that has consistently provided the teens with a perfect venue to interact with the fellow performers and peers. The party served as a taste of "what is to come" for the more than 80 participants of the competition.

Live performances from Silk and Spirit Girl Maxene Magalona wowed the crowd of teens. Cool prizes were given away to lucky partygoers who participated in the exciting events.

The highlight of the event was the launching of the New Modess Spirit video, which also featured the contest piece for Spirits in Harmony Year 3, the Spirit Song.

Spirits in Harmony elimination round will be held on Aug. 24 at the UP Film Center in UP Diliman, respectively.

DSAP NATIONAL OFFICERS

The Drugstores Association of the Philippines will be the host for this year's 6th DSAP National Convention to be held on Aug. 22 and 23 at The Manila Hotel. Shown are the DSAP national officers during their induction with Dr. William Torres as inducting officer (front row, center). Front row, from left, are Vilma Cordova, treasurer, Araceli Pe Benito, auditor, Emilene Madriaga-Ablaza, VP internal, Gloria de Chavez, president, Karena May Kho, director, Florecita Intal, assistant auditor, Dorothy Cruz, director, Emma Trinidad-Caramat, secretary. Second row, from left, are Rodel Vizconde, VP external, Manuelito de Castro, John Inocencio, Larry Ong and Angelito Inton, directors. For inquiries, call the DSAP secretariat at 631-4254, telefax 633-5253.

KIDZWORLD'S CORPORATE BLITZ 2002

KidzWorld, the only child-oriented nature, sports and adventure country club in the country, goes into high gear for its marketing campaign, and this time it's the corporate world that it invades. On Aug. 21 and 22, KidzWorld's sales managers will head to the country's business districts such as Makati, Ortigas and Laguna Technopark and meet with top-level personnel to give them a first-hand look and experience at the adventure that KidzWorld offers to the whole family. Shown are the KidzWorld sales team (from left, standing) sales managers Egai Torres, Cathy Enteria, and Georgina Gonzalo, sales directors Anne Valla and Joni Tan Cardoso, sales and administration manager Michael del Rosario, sales coordinator Dona Gabaldon, sales managers Manette Gayatin, Rebecca Santos, and Beverly Valenzuela, and special assistant to the president Ulysses Uy. Sitting are sales managers Philip Ocampo and Richard Catrat. Sitting in the van is sales manager Jesse Lim. For an appointment, call 721-2167, 721-3509, 752-1822, fax 723-2596 or e-mail fun@kidzworld.com.ph.

e-Source Asia Inc. launches Job Website

e-SOURCE Asia Inc. announced recently that esourceasiaonline.com, a premiere job website, is now open for business. Employers, recruitment agencies, headhunters and human resource managers can now go to www.esourceasiaonline.com to post their job ads at the website that will enable them to match their job requirements with the right candidate personnel.

Employers will receive e-Source Asia Inc.'s offer of a wide range of services and very competitive advertising rates by posting an inquiry through its e-mail address at info@esourceasiaonline.com

e-Source Asian Inc. offers a free homepage for banner ad advertisers at the e-Source website.

For general inquiries on how to get your free homepage, posting job ads, job ad rates, banner ad rates and other services, readers are requested to get in touch with e-Source Asia Inc. at 725-2650 or 725-2676.

Job applicants are welcome to post their resumes online free and they can update or edit their resumes by logging in with their username and password. Current hot jobs are IT, nurses, radiologists, teachers, engineers and other essential professions.

e-Source Asia Inc. is ready for business with any business organization.

UCCP Ellinwood sponsors show

THE UNITED Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP)-Ellinwood Malate Church invites everyone to a performance of Trumpet's "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" on Aug. 23, 8 p.m. at the Meralco Theater in Pasig City. Ellinwood Malate Church is located at 1660 Dr. A Vasquez Street, Malate, Manila. For more information, call 523-6564, 523-2884 and 813-5940.

BITS Clips

Teen workshop

THE CENTER for Family Ministries conducts another run of Positive Empowered Parenting for Teens, a powerful parenting workshop more popularly known as "Pep Teens". Acquire the awareness and skills necessary to communicate, understand ad foster a healthy relationship with adolescents. "Pep Teens" will be conducted on Aug. 24, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Center's premises in Ateneo de Manila campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For reservations, call Cefam at 426-4289 to 92.

Meditating with color

THE PRINCIPLES of color therapy are combined with those of "A Course in Miracles" to help anyone learn to meditate with color. This unique meditation program is the prerequisite for the next, "Color Therapy for Self-Healing". To be given for four Wednesdays (Aug. 21, 28, Sept. 4 and 11) from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. and six Thursdays (Aug. 22, 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19 and 26) from 6:30 to 9 p.m. by Amy P. Cavosora at Ink & Stone bookshop at the ground floor of The Podium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center. Call Queenie or Edward at 637-8221, or call Amy at 925-2795, 0917-6089625.

Arellano High '53 meet

A GENERAL meeting of all members of Class 1953 of Arellano (Manila North) High School is scheduled on Aug. 24, Saturday, 3 p.m., at Joni's Bake Shop, 832 A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City. For more information, call Rudy Tolentino at 932-7694, 931-7618, Norma Jocson-Recio at 921-4901, or Lina Parez-Gonzalez at 524-3150 or 721-5480.

Reyes to address IIAP membership meet

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo T. Reyes will be the guest speaker of the Institute of Internal Auditors-Philippines (IIAP) in its fourth general membership meeting to be held at the Hotel Intercontinental ballroom in Makati City on Aug. 23, Friday. The IIAP will also hold the annual election of its board of directors for 2003. The IIAP will also launch two major activities for the year: the 2002 National Convention to be held at the Bohol Beach Club on the third week of October, and the IIAP's Search for the Outstanding Internal Audit Department program based on criteria set by the IIA Inc. International in the United States.

FILIPINO DIGIMON ASIA CUP PLACER

Vladen Nathaniel Tadeo, a 10-year-old from the University of Sto. Tomas, won second place in the individual category of the Digimon Asia Cup competition held in Hong Kong July 27 and 28 after competing with 18 contestants representing Hong Kong, China, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia. Vladen won a trophy, a toy showcase from Bandai, and $200 in cash. Vladen emerged champion from among 38 contestants in the Digivice competition held at the Toy Kingdom in SM Megamall June 30. Renan Sta. Maria also joined Vladen in the Hong Kong competition. Vladen (wearing tag number 17) and Renan (18) are shown with the other Asian delegates.

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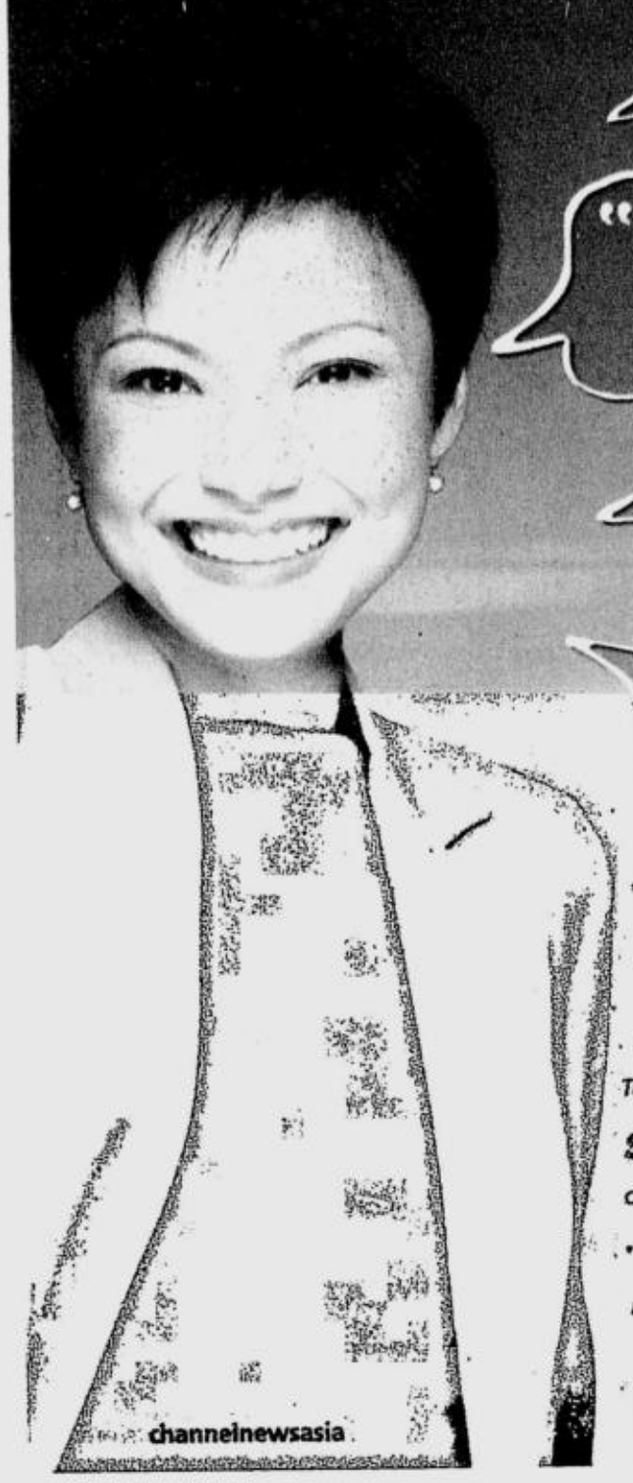

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BUSINESS

Spending cuts seen to affect GDP target

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES will fall short of its 4- to 4.5-percent gross domestic product growth target for this year if the government pushes through with sharp cutbacks in expenditure, economists from the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development warned yesterday.

Former Economic Planning Secretary and current ACERD director Cielito Habito said during the center's first quarterly economic briefing that the growth in GDP—the amount of goods and services produced by the domestic economy—could reach only 3.8 percent this year if the government would resort to severe belt-tightening measures.

"The widening budget deficit is causing concern, but we submit that this concern is overplayed given current economic circumstances," Habito said. "Breaching the deficit targets by as much as 20 percent will have no adverse impact on inflation and interest rates, and will ensure that the growth and employment targets will be protected."

The government earlier announced plans to slash expenditures by as much as P28 billion to meet the P130-billion deficit cap for the full year amid sluggish revenue collections. This developed as the deficit has hit nearly P120 billion as of end-June this year.

Habito stressed that the government could afford to loosen up a bit on its fiscal management to perk up the economy as long as it could keep the deficit to 3.3-3.4 percent of GDP, but not exceeding 4 percent.

"We cannot drastically bring down (the share of deficit to GDP) to 3 percent over the short term," he said.

Based on a macroeconomic forecasting model used by the ACERD, Habito said the country's GDP growth could hit 4.1 percent for the full year without expenditure cutbacks, while inflation could remain benign at an average of 4.5 percent and interest rate at 5.2 percent.

He said this meant that the government's growth targets could be attained if the P130-billion government budget deficit ceiling would be relaxed to avoid substantial cutbacks in the second semester.

"Without such leeway in the deficit, it is unlikely that the year's growth targets can be achieved," Habito said.

Gov't probes IPP contract

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said his office has started to look into a possible "sweetheart deal" involving an independent power producer (IPP) contract entered into in the past "which may have unduly disadvantaged electricity consumers."

Perez said he would disclose details of the investigation of the alleged sweetheart deal "in due time."

Perez made the disclosure as he announced that the DOE "welcomes a possible Senate inquiry into a report submitted by New Zealand-based Meritec Ltd. on the Impsa contract for the rehabilitation of the Caliraya-Botokan-Kalayaan (CBK) power plant complex."

According to Perez, Meritec submitted two reports—the first commissioned by National Power Corp. "to have a basis for payments for the rehabilitation work undertaken pursuant to the contract," and the second was requested to assist in the then ongoing IPP contracts review by an inter-agency committee.

The results of the review would be used as part of the policy review by the Department of Justice and the National Economic and Development Authority. Copies of the reports have been given to both agencies, Perez said.

Perez said he had requested for a meeting with Sen. Sergio Osmeña this week "in order to fully brief the senator on the contents of the second part of the Meritec report, which was a review of the CBK contract." Perez said he hoped this report could be used in the second phase of the IPP review.

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TRAVELS WITH OUR PALATES

You are where you eat

All of us have food-related landmarks in our memory maps, made even more memorable by intense personal experience

By Erwin and Mina Elechicon
Contributors

FOOD can be a landmark as surely as any monument. You are where you eat. When we travel, particularly to a place we've not been to before, the challenge isn't just finding a good place to eat. It's finding the place and dish that tastes like the place we're in. Once we've found that restaurant, bistro or *turo-turo* and tasted that entrée, dessert or *kakanin*, it becomes inextricably a part of our remembrance of the place. The food and the dining experience will always remind us that we were once there.

Star Café and Baguio. Malabon and *pancit*. Synonyms for many of us. Places and food so etched in collective memory that, oftentimes, one almost can't exist without the other. All of us have these food-related "landmarks" in our memory maps, made even more memorable by intense personal experience.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Personal markers

Our own travels have left us with many of these personal markers. Marseilles is bouillabaisse (it's the *rouille* that makes the difference) at L'Esquinade, overlooking the blue Mediterranean. Boracay is Eastern Avenhjas and its thick fruit (mango) shakes in huge glasses, meant to be sipped ever so slowly and savored in the shade. Tsukiji Fish Market defines both Tokyo and fresh sashimi (Toro) for us. Sto. Tomas (Batangas) inevitably conjures up Rose & Grace and its *bulalo* (whether kneecap, knuckles or marrow-filled beef shinbones in oily, piping hot soup, *patis* and *calamansi* on the side). How can we forget the *moules mariniere* (large and juicy) and *pommes frites* (thick and crunchy)—steamed mussels in white wine accompanied by French fries—at Chez Leon in the Rue de Bouchers, which is indelibly Brussels? Cebu and its cuisine at the Golden Cowrie and Kinamot sa Escario. King crabs anywhere at San Francisco's Pier 39, followed by dessert at Ghirardelli's. Our memories of places are filled with these souvenirs—far more deserving of reminiscence than matchboxes from the local travel inn.

There is no experience, however, that is quite as personal or as satisfying as the experience of going home. We've lived in Bombay (before it became Mumbai), Singapore (twice now) and Saigon (aka Ho Chi Minh). Fantastic experiences all, and probably the subjects of future recollections. But always the Philippines, Manila and Iloilo especially, is where we really come home to.

Quintessentially home

Iloilo quickly brings to mind images of large, rough shells of blanched *sisi* (*talaba* or native oysters) dipped in oh-so-sour vinegar, *diwal* (nylon shell) soup, baked scallops, *kinilaw na hipon*, *adobadong alimusan* (catfish), *inasal na manok* (but only Bisayang *manok* or native chicken raised by the owner) and garlic rice. This grand meal is laid out sans frills on bamboo tables in native huts by the beach, or in the air-conditioned comfort of a large new hall. This can only be Tatoy's Manukan and Sea Foods at Villa Beach. There are other places that serve good (primarily seafood-based) Ilonggo fare, Breakthrough (they have *lechon*, too) and Marina (where the now-infamous "carwash" is or was also located) among them. But Tatoy's is quintessentially home—a place for celebrations, and consolation when necessary. For everybody and every day.

And then there's Ted's Oldtimer La Paz Bachoy. Smell the steam as it rises from the meaty-flavored broth; bite into the crunchy *chicharon*, taste the sweetness that the raw egg imparts as you stir it around the hearty bowl filled with the unique yellow egg noodles (often imitated but never quite as good). Success has resulted in several branches of Ted's—clean and bright and trying hard to be modern fast food places. But memories of childhood don't come back as strongly as at the original location in La Paz public market. There is still a Ted's there, close to where the first one originally stood. A bit worn and faded, but always true to the concept of a *bachuyan*. One should not leave Iloilo without having partaken of *bachoy*. One last chance to do so is at Bernie's Place, across from the Mandurrico airport, where the *bachoy* is invitingly hot and tasty. *Bachoy* is comfort food—friendly and full of fond memories. *Bachoy*, too, means home to us.

Thai cuisine

Thai food in Iloilo? Definitely not evocative, and almost incongruous. But recently, Iloilo has surprised and satisfied residents with the advent of Thai cuisine. An excellent sampling can be had at Pepy's (unlikely a Thai name, more likely the owner's) along the diversion road going to Santa Barbára town. Pepy's began as a small *nipa* hut, with about four tables, serving a few dishes only for lunch. Word has it that the chef used to work in Bangkok, and came back to Iloilo to retire. You're likely to be seated beside beer salesmen in their white polos, chewing heartily on beef and chicken *satay*, pork in green curry, or chicken in *pandan* leaf, but you must come before noon, as most of the food is gone by 1 p.m.

Today the *nipa* hut has expanded to a two-story structure, with another hut on the side to cope with the overflow. Yet people often still queue expectantly (hungrily) by the *kawayan* fence, in the heat of the noonday sun, as the rest of the world passes by. Others are following. On the national road going to Tigbauan is the large Thai Village Restaurant, complete with the arched roof architecture so distinctively Thai. Definitely something to look forward to on a future visit.

Familiar like Tatoy's. Reassuring like *bachoy*. Even sometimes pleasantly surprising like the coming of Thai food. That's Iloilo. That's home.

Doreen Fernandez (who recently passed away) and her co-author Edilberto Alegre had particularly sage advice: "Eat your way through our country and be the richer for it. Be pleased by the nuances of the particular, and blessed by the commonalities. Confront the new and tame it into the familiar. Discover our food, enjoy it, and enrich the colors of your experience."

The Elechicons are an expatriate couple currently residing in Singapore. They have lived in various places outside the Philippines for 10 of the last 15 years. Among their passions are travel and food. Between them, they have flown out of Singapore 32 times to 11 different countries in the last 12 months. Together they have been at least once to 1,686 (yes, they have kept exact count) restaurants all over the world.

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PASTA making is such an art form in Italy they even have a museum dedicated to displaying the 300-plus shapes and varieties of this venerable dietary staple.

Have you noticed that some sauces just seem to naturally go better with certain kinds of pasta? This is no accident. Italian pasta conforms to certain shapes because these shapes work best with different sauces and dishes. Here are some basic guidelines for choosing the pasta that goes best with your favorite sauce:

Spaghetti/Fettuccini is made for more liquid sauces—long thin strands that can be coated and wrapped around a fork so you get a good balance of noodle and sauce. The thinner the strand, the more sauce is held so a milder sauce is recommended. Conversely, the thick flat strands are for sauces with more potent flavor.

The tubular pastas, like rigatoni, ziti and elbow macaroni, are made for heavier cheese and meat-based sauces. By virtue of being cylindrically shaped, these noodles have more rigidity so as to hold onto a thick sauce without collapsing.

More specialized are the twisted, spiral rotini pasta. This shape was made for sauces with small, flavorful bits and chunks acting as important seasoning in the liquid. They are like a wound-up strand of fettuccini so they get coated and catch bits and chunks.

The bow-tie pasta looks like its name and is best for dishes with creamy or tomato-based sauces that have other elements like pieces of meat, seafood or vegetable in them. You may have noticed that a rolled-up forkful of spaghetti usually prevents anything else from hitching a ride. With bow ties, your noodle gets coated and it makes a nice platform on your fork for that delicious-looking cube of chicken, slice of chorizo, or broccoli floret.

As far as lasagna noodles, think of them as the noodle version of a tortilla, phylo crust or even *lumpia* wrapper. They are made to sandwich, wrap and contain, thus turning sauce into filling. Because they are noodles, they can be cooked with wet fillings in conditions that will cause other crusts to saturate and fall apart.

There are, of course, many other types of pasta, all with their own little functions and nuances. Ultimately, the right pasta is the one you prefer with your sauce. Just make sure that you use a good quality pasta, plenty of water, a little salt and some olive oil when you boil it. Follow the boiling directions on the package and don't overcook it. All pasta should be cooked "al dente," which translates as "to the teeth," meaning it should still be chewy, not soft and mushy. When choosing a brand of pasta, it is best to look for one with a long history in the business. The old family companies tend to use purer ingredients, better mixtures and more skillful drying techniques. A prime example is Federici. Perhaps no pasta brand can prove quite as authentically Italian as this pasta master that has been producing premium quality macaroni since the 1800's.

The secret to authentic pasta goes down to the quality of the basic ingredients. Federici is made from high-grade durum wheat semolinas (the nutrient-rich part of the wheat's berry), and processed using only the purest water of Amelia. Moreover, technology affords the production of Federici pasta without any type of manual contact, which assures cleanliness and hygiene. They also offer a wide variety of shapes and styles of pasta all made with the same impeccable quality.

Try these recipes at home and with quality pasta you can make a dish that even the most discerning Italian will approve. Federici pasta, exclusively imported from Italy and distributed in the Philippines by Fly Ace Corporation, is available at all leading supermarkets and delicatessens.

Why are certain Italian noodles shaped the way they are? Here are the reasons plus recipes to try at home

Spaghetti with Tuna Sauce

1 lb Federici Spaghetti
½ clove peeled and finely chopped garlic
5 tbsp extra virgin olive oil tablespoons
3 tbsp finely chopped parsley
10 ½ oz tinned Italian tomatoes, coarsely chopped, with their juice
10 oz Italian tuna in olive oil, drained
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Sauté the garlic with the olive oil over medium heat, until lightly brown. Add the chopped parsley; stir and cook for another half minute. Add the chopped tomatoes and their juice; stir well, lower the heat and cook uncovered at a steady gentle simmer for about 15 minutes.

While the tomato sauce is simmering, drain the tuna and break it up into small pieces. When the tomato sauce is done, toss the tuna with the sauce. Add just a light sprinkling of salt, bearing in mind that the tuna is already salty, add pepper and simmer gently, uncovered for five minutes.

Boil Federici spaghetti in 6 quarts of salted water. Drain well, toss directly with the sauce in a warm serving bowl and serve immediately. (Serves 4-5)

Penne All'Arrabbiata (hot and spicy)

14 oz Federici Penne Rigate
22 oz fresh tomato
4 tbsp *pecorino* (Ewe's mink cheese)
3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2 cloves garlic
Red hot pepper
Salt, Italian parsley, pepper to taste

Dip the tomatoes in boiling water, then peel them and remove their seeds. Cut them into cubes. Brown the minced garlic and the red hot pepper in oil. Add the tomatoes and cook for five minutes. Cook the Federici Penne Rigate in 6 quarts of salted water, drain it *al dente* and toss with the sauce. Sprinkle with grated Romano cheese and chopped Italian parsley before serving. (Serves 4-6)

Linguine with capers and anchovies

14 oz Federici Linguine
2 oz salted anchovy fillet
2 oz pitted black Gaeta olives
2 oz salted capers*
5 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
3 tbsp Italian parsley
2 cloves garlic
Salt, fresh ground pepper to taste

**Capers should be washed to take the salt away, then soaked in water for 15 minutes before use.*

If you prefer to give more flavor to your sauce, add fresh oregano.

Wash the anchovies, remove the bone and cut the fish into pieces. Wash the parsley; dry and chop it up. Brown the garlic in the oil; add the capers, the olives, two spoons of water and the parsley. Cook for four to five minutes. When you turn the stove off, add in the anchovies and stir until they melt. Boil Federici Linguine in 6 quarts of salted water, drain well and serve with the sauce on top. (Serves 4)

New pasta and beef dishes from Down Under

T.G.I. FRIDAY'S offers a serving of two of your favorites in one plate: a quarter of the Friday's Fiesta Chicken Barbecue together with a half portion of Inihaw na Liempo with the new Friday's Chicken and Pork. Both are served with rice pilaf and chef's vegetables. For seafood lovers, there's broiled Mahi-Mahi with Cajun-spiced squid and rice pilaf and chef's vegetables. Enjoy these new options at T.G.I. Friday's Glorietta, Robinsons Place Manila, Hotel Rembrandt in QC, Alabang Town Center and Sta. Lucia East.

DINING-OUT

ITALIANNI'S crab dishes come with a choice of three sauces—balsamic marinara sauce, lemon butter caper sauce and garlic vinegar sauce. Check out Italianni's specialties such as Roasted Chicken and Grilled Pork Chops Au Poivre. There are also new coffee concoctions like Amaretto Smoothie, Free Mocha and Kahlua Coffee Smoothie. Italianni's Restaurant is at Greenbelt 2, Makati City. Call 728-0291/0283/0289.

OUTBACK RESTAURANT introduces two dishes: Bib 'N Tucker with its spaghetti pasta topped with homemade red tomato sauce with clams, squid and shrimp in garlic and white wine sauce and Beef Ribs, smoked and grilled and served with fresh veggies and garlic mashed potatoes. Outback branches are located at Glorietta IV, Makati City; Libis, QC; and at the Alabang Town Center.

MARIO'S KITCHEN at the 2/F of Robinson's Galleria and Greenbelt 1 serves appetizers, salads, pastas and rice meals. Diners craving for sandwiches can try the Bocatas à la Planchas or Grilled Sandwiches served on ciabatta or herded focaccia.

BLUE BACON & GREEN EGGS serves a special set menu for the month. For starters, there's Emperor's Salad, a concoction of Kani and Nori topped with Creamy Wasabi Dressing. For the main course, try the Pan-Roasted Fillet of US Beef served with Rosti Potatoes and Venison Liver Pate' on Ciabatta Bread with Sautéed Fresh Vegetables on the side. Complete your meal with Swiss Chocolate Cake with Amaretto. Blue Bacon & Green Eggs is at 27 Lantana St. corner Boston St., New Manila, QC. It is open from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 721-7666/2717 or 726-8054.

GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL recently opened "The Merienda Corner," which offers a variety of Danish pastries and rolls, cookies, cinnamon roll, *ensaymada*, chocolate brownies, ham croissant, banana bread, chicken pie, hotdog rolls and a basket of bread roll of three different kinds. Cool drinks and hot beverages are also available. Call 526-8588 local 7345.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA presents a two-week Canadian food and beverage festival dubbed "Culinary Canadiana." It features special Canadian rotating buffet menus. The food festival runs until Aug. 31 at the hotel's Garden Café.

T.G.I. FRIDAY'S Chicken and Riblets

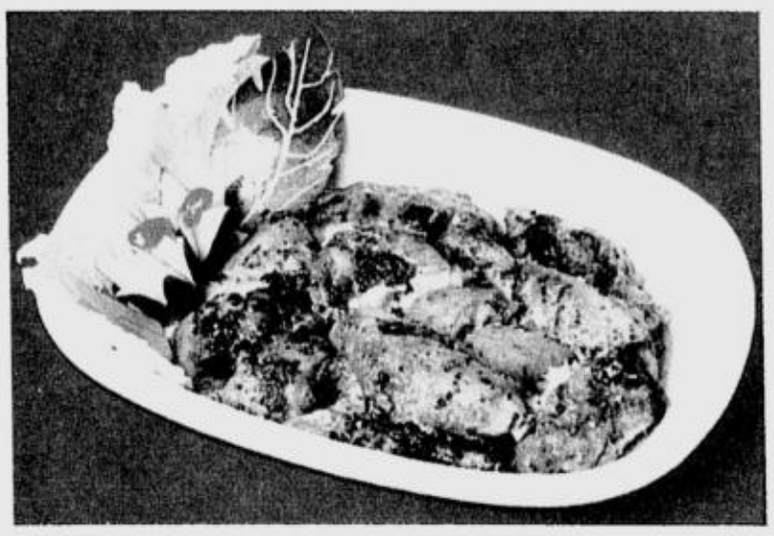
BLUE Bacon & Green Eggs pan-roasted fillet of US beef served with rosti potatoes and Venison liver pate on ciabatta bread with sautéed fresh vegetables

MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL'S Vogue Coffeeshop features an International Food Festival until Aug. 31. It offers Cream of Cauliflower with Peas, Chicken Ragout with Shrimps and Vegetables, Roast Porkloin with Red Cabbage and Gravy, and Mixed Seafood in Creamy Parsley Sauce. Noodle lovers can enjoy spaghetti mousellini and soba noodles. Do not miss shabu-shabu and sushi and sashimi. Call 526-7001 local 6554.

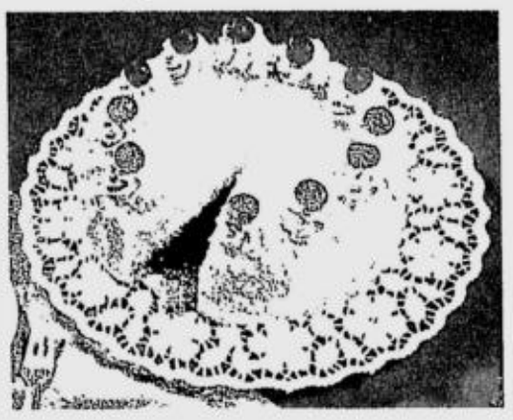
DUSIT HOTEL'S Paulaner Brauhaus now serves pica-pica favorites such as Gambas Ajillo, Calamares Fritos, Champignones Al Ajillo, Sizzling Squid, Spicy Hungarian Sausage and Chicken Wings Teriyaki. Feast on German favorites like sauerkraut, sausages, roast pork knuckles, pork neck and apple strudel. Call 867-3333 local 3341/3308.

MANILA GALLERIA SUITES presents the Spanish Food Festival until Sept. 1 at Raphael Café-Restaurant. Enjoy Tuna Steak in Tomato Sauce, Grilled Fish "Romescu" Hot Pepper and Almond Sauce, and Red Snapper with Anchovy Sauce. Call 633-7111 local 7416/7440.

AT THE RICHMONDE HOTEL'S Exchange Bar, experience Happy Hour. Early Evening Happy Hour is from 5-8 p.m., offering drink-all-you-can local beers at P225+ or bottomless drink of the month at P295+, inclusive of pica-pica buffet. Late Nite Happy Hour happens 11 p.m.- 1 a.m. with unlimited orders of local beers for P175 net. A 50-percent discount on other drinks is also given during Happy Hours, which can be enjoyed Monday to Saturday. Call 638-7777 local 3408.



DADS FLAVORS OF THE ORIENT
Dads features Flavors of the Orient, offering an array of Thai, Indonesian, Chinese and other Asian specialties. An enticing selection is the Indonesian Roast Chicken, oven-baked to bring out its delicious flavor. Flavors of the Orient runs from August until October at all Dads branches: SM Megamall, Glorietta 3, and Alabang Town Center. Call 532-3004.



MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL'S Maxim's Pastry Shop offers Macapuno Pandan Cake, available this August. Call 526-7001 local 6561.

Tsalap, Tsalap Tocho!

Gawing hindi basta-basta ordinaryo ang inyong Tocho.
Buhusan ng bagong sarap ng Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.

Mang Tomas Tocho Special

INGREDIENTS:
1 kilo *bangus* (milkfish) belly
1 tbsp. Garlic, minced
2 tbsp. Onion, sliced
2 tbsp. Yellow bean
1 tbsp. Ginger, sliced thinly
2 tbsp. Datu Puti Soy Sauce
1/4 cup fresh tomato, sliced
1/2 cup MANG TOMAS ALL-AROUND SARSA
UFC Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil for frying

PROCEDURE:
1. Clean the milkfish. Deep fry and set aside.
2. Saute garlic and onion in oil. Add ginger, yellow bean and sliced fresh tomato. Saute for a few more minutes. Add the soy sauce and Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.
3. Simmer for few minutes then add the fried milkfish. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

MANG TOMAS KUSINABILIDAD
All-Around Sarap mula sa All-Around Sarsa

Gusto ba ninyong magka KUSINAbilidad? Abangan pa ang mga susunod na recipes at siguraduhing laging may Mang Tomas All Around Sarsa sa tahanan ninyo. Dahil with Mang Tomas, may dagdag sarap sa bawat lutuin.

Cuisine both global and local

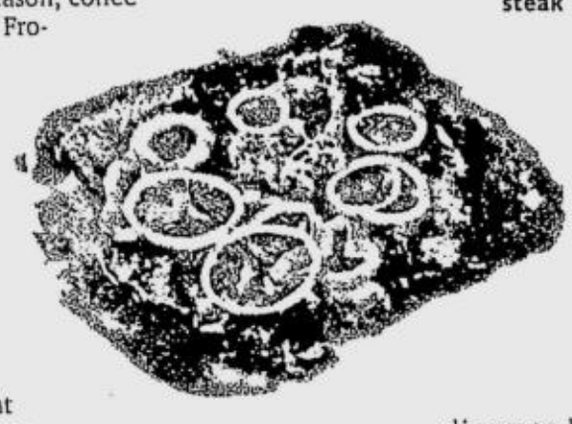
CAFÉ dining gets more and more interesting. Thanks to Manila's burgeoning café scene—and Café Juan Soy, the latest addition to Greenbelt 1's exciting food row. The 70-seater café at the Greenbelt 1 Lobby in Ayala Center offers an array of price-friendly lunch, dinner and snack specialties with prices ranging from P40 to no more than P175.

Greenbelt 1's mall diners can now savor Juan Soy's "glocal" favorites amid eclectic art pieces of award-winning sculptor Leo Gerardo Leonardo, such as the illuminated hardwood tables with fiberglass human leg forms and the novel functional gelato cart, which is an antique ice-cream container in wood, wires and fiberglass. The "Ang Pequeng Altar," an art piece on loan from famed movie director Peque Gallaga, adorns the main dining area as a giant hanging lamp.

Try the café's favorites: Rice Cuisine with international flavors including Salpicao, Sukiyaki or Pesto; Bangus Sisig and Tabako Rolls with cilantro, shiitake mushrooms, glass noodles and veggies; pasta meals such as Pasta Kuliglig and Vegetable Farfalle; desserts including the homemade Apple Pie baked fresh from a 30-year-old family recipe, Buko-Lychee Cooler, and not to forget the "Holy Halo"—a merry mix of ingredients made in the monastery kitchens and sprinkled with communion host trimmings, angel cookies and topped with gelato ice cream!

Beverages are an experience, too, like the fresh fruit shakes that combine up to three, four or more fruits in season; coffee concoctions such as the Frozen Hot Coffee; freshly brewed Monk's Blend; toasted Rice Coffee and herbal tea with fresh mint leaves; or the free-flowing Juan Soy Iced Tea, which is another old family recipe.

JUAN Soy beef steak



Meals are reminiscent of good old home cooking and recipes that have been passed through generations—but this time around, with a flavorful, whimsical and socially relevant twist. Every month, Café Juan Soy features a special dish created by guest, home-grown cooks whose culinary artistry "results in sincere food that comes from the heart and never fails to satisfy a hungry soul."

In celebration of Café Juan Soy's first month anniversary on Aug. 8, featured dish is Manang Narcing's special homemade Kare-Kare. She has been whipping up delicious meals in the owners' home for some 35 years now, and time has come for Café Juan Soy's diners to have a taste of Manang Narcing's dishes.

Behind Café Juan Soy are creative and socially enterprising couple Eric and Marge Barro, who introduced the concept of "Food for the Soul" (FFTS), a one-stop shop for delicacies made by the holy hands of nuns and priests in monastery kitchens all over the country. "Heavenly" goodies such as Good Shepherd Ube Jam, Pink Sister's Cloister Cookies, Trappistine Nun's Chocolate Rhum Balls, Carmelite's Krispy Kangkong, Blessings Bakeshop goodies and the Salesian Father's authentic Italian gelato are also available at Café Juan Soy.

Café Juan Soy is open daily from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 896-1423 or (0917) 896-1423.

Get instant recipes of your fave drinks

FHM, the Philippines' premier men's magazine, introduces "MIX Drinks," a mobile phone service that gives you recipes on how to mix your favorite drinks.

To avail of this fun new service, type FHM <your corresponding spirit>. There's tequila, vodka, gin, whiskey, rum and liqueur. So, if you're in the mood for more than just your typical vodka-on-the-rocks-type FHM vodka, send it to 211 (for Smart subscribers) and get an instant recipe for the ultimate vodka-infused drink!

This exciting service is brought to you by Mobile FHM and Smart Communications. P2.50 will be charged for every request sent.

FHM Philippines is published by Summit Media.

Mouth-watering spicy roast chicken

OVER the years, Filipinos' penchant for spicy food has sent them in an incessant chase for the perfect relish. Tracing its origin from the spicy herbs of South America or Louisiana to the stimulating cuisine of India and the tangy Asian chows, spicy foods have invaded the Philippine food market.

This is what inspired Kenny Rogers Roasters to come up with the newest, "hottest" alternative—Spicy Roast Chicken.

"We are roast chicken experts and we believe there's always room for variety," says Tricia Hallazgo, Kenny Rogers Roasters brand/product supervisor. "We want to further strengthen our position as the leader in the roasted chicken category, and we believe that expanding new variants will make this happen." So, aside from the citrus-based Classic and lemon-buttery Fiesta variants, Kenny Rogers now has Spicy Roast.

The great thing about Kenny's Spicy Roast Chicken is that it is very tasty and it comes with just the right spiciness level. The chicken meat is juicy and well-seasoned and the flavor is mouth-watering. And as one knows, chicken at Kenny Rogers is served in big portions—larger than those of most fastfoods.

After a series of taste tests in some Kenny Rogers Roasters branches, the acceptance of Spicy Roast Chicken was overwhelming. "It is the kind of spices we use," beams Hallazgo. "This brings in a unique taste and produces an exciting tingle in the tongue without being overpowering. Exciting—it's really something you'll remember and look forward to eating again."

As the Filipino palate is adventurous, the exquisite pleasure of eating Kenny Rogers Spicy Roast Chicken is more of an experience—a very timely one, in fact, especially during the rainy season wherein one can not help but crave for spicy, delicious meals.

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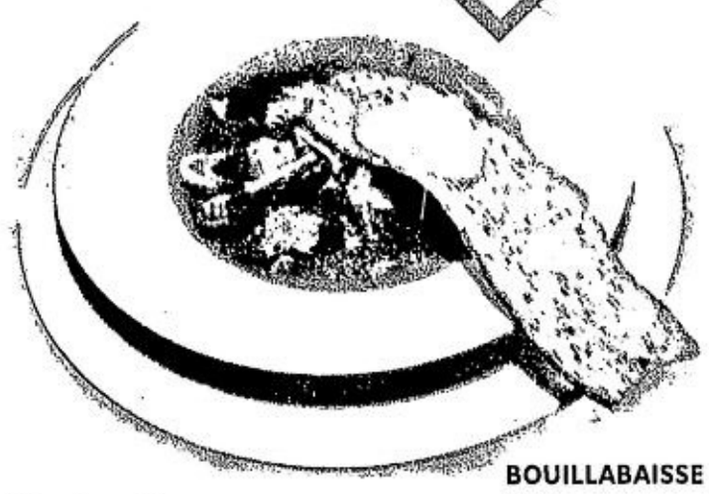
LIFESTYLE

Cafés

D1

FRENCH wine on display



BOUILLABAISSE soup

What wine goes with what dish is a source of constant experimenting, and the French consider the undertaking 'fun'

Wining and dining in the same breath

Text by Bambi Harper
Photos by Betoy Johnson

THE UNDERSTATED elegance of Manila Mandarin's Tivoli, with botanical prints on its lime-colored walls, was a perfect foil to spending a couple of exhilarating hours enjoying French wines from the Chapoutier vineyards.

At the invitation of Tita Trillo of Anthony's Wines, we didn't think twice since Tivoli's food never falters and is the equal of its setting. (The decor doesn't scream at you, thank heaven, and, obviously, the crowd values its conversations, courtesy prevails and no straining is required to hear or be heard.)

The words "wine" and "food" in France are usually said in the same breath since the French believe that a union of the two is essential to a successful and enjoyable meal. Given their profound respect for food and wine, such things are not taken lightly. Happily, this marriage is not monogamous! The country has such a great variety of superb wine that, what wine goes with what dish is a source of constant experimenting—happily for them. The French consider the undertaking "fun." (I, on the other hand, wanted to know if I could drink nothing but champagne throughout a meal. Of course, one can but it is not recommended, according to Monsieur Christophe Thomas, the regional export manager of Chapoutier, although it can be done if the meal consists of seafood and white meat). The important thing to remember about the wines of Chapoutier is that these are the purest of the pure; their grapes are not mixed.

RACK of lamb

MANDARIN Oriental food and beverage manager David Thomas and Christophe Thomas of Chapoutier

Perfect antidote

A clear pale yellow Rhone (Belleruche Blanc) was served with the *aperitif*, presumably to open one's appetite and leave the palate fresh and ready to enjoy the meal ahead. I have to tell you that I don't need anything to open my appetite, unfortunately. So I enjoyed the Rhone purely for its light body. My appetite was doing very well, indeed without any help.

We began with a steaming bowl of bouillabaisse choc-a-block with flavorful saffron, garlic, white wine, chunks of sea bass, salmon and *lapulapu*—the perfect antidote to windy, rainy monsoon, needing little else to make a meal complete unless you're like me who needs to be fortified by more food. It was accompanied by a Chateauneuf du Pape, Blanc (1995), which was crisp and dry to counter the strong tastes.

The main course was a medium-rare roasted rack of lamb Provencale, its rich gravy with the faintest touch of horseradish, with a *rouille* of brown stock, celery root and leeks. We had the deep purple Chateauneuf du Pape, Rouge (1997), with undertones of plums and cinnamon blackcurrant, to complement the lamb. (If you're wondering if I've turned into a wine expert, don't be fooled. Mr. Thomas was lecturing. Suffice to say, it's a great wine, not necessary to go with a meal, according to me. I wouldn't mind drinking it alone).

Finally, to add another five pounds to those famous 10 that settled on my hips, we had spiced pouched pear with chocolate mousse and orange *kirsch sabayon*, aided and abetted by a Muscat de Rivesaltes, 1997. This dessert wine is a lovely golden shade of pale gold. It is not excessively sweet and smells like fresh grapes and rose petals—rather romantic, I think. When Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote, "silvery gossamers that

WINING/ p. D4

Disney's Lilo & Stitch © Disney
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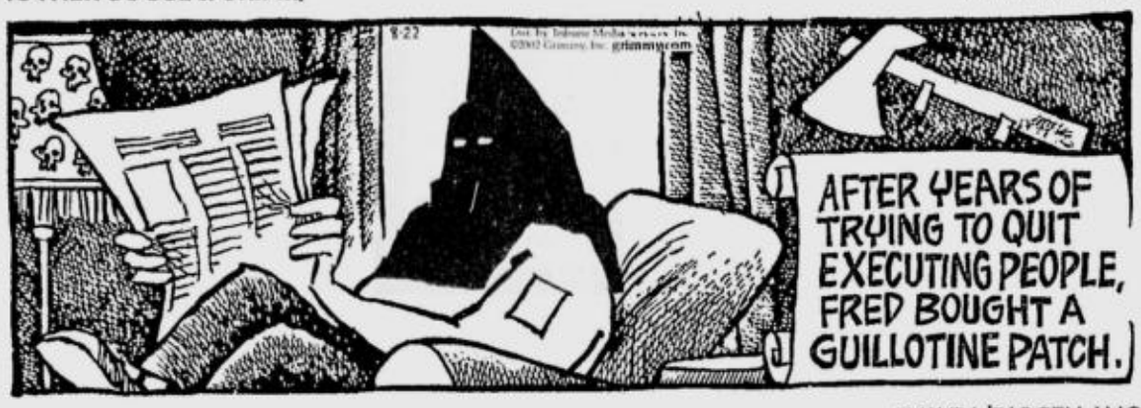
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

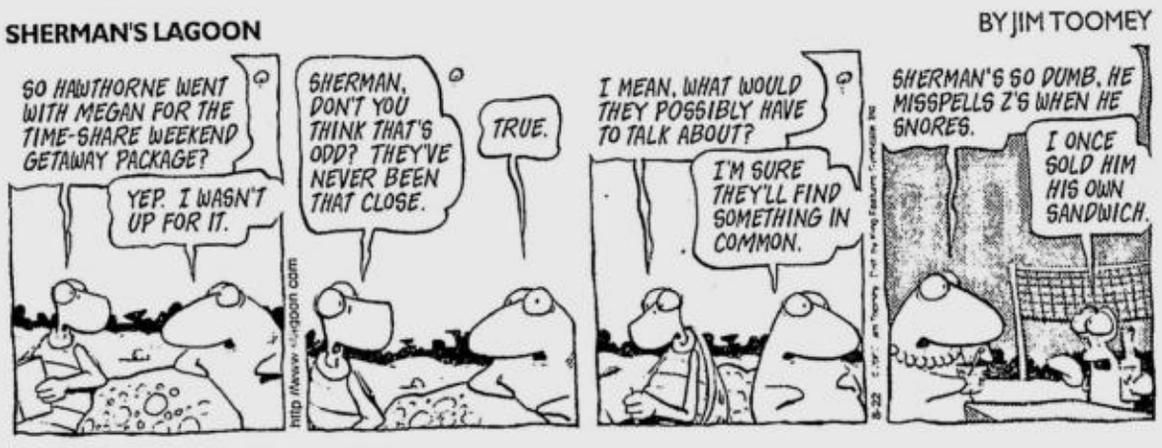


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY



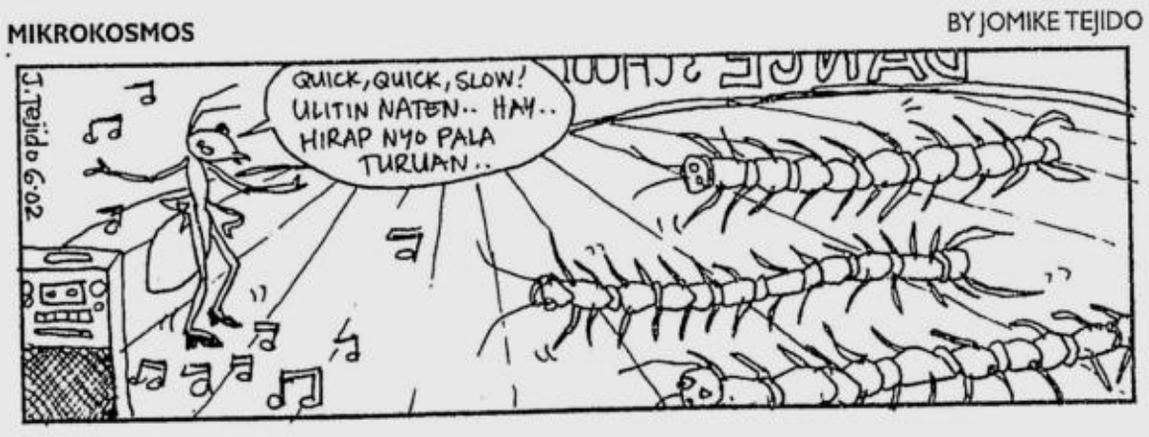
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTT'S BY PATRICK McDONNELL

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cindy Williams, John Lee Hooker, Norman Schwarzkopf

Happy Birthday: You'll have a romantic and entertaining year if you get out and kick up your heels. This is a year of accomplishment and enjoyment in all aspects of your life. All the experience you get and the people you meet will result in fantastic new projects, pursuits and partnerships. Your numbers are 3, 15, 27, 36, 41, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Social events must be attended. You will meet some interesting and helpful people and have a great time. You'll be extremely energetic and must not allow yourself too much idle time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone you have to deal with will be emotional today. If you are comforting and understanding, it will allow you to gain popularity among your peers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Communicating with people who are opinionated or have strong beliefs will be eye-opening. You may be tempted to follow, but you should blend what you've discovered with what works best for your lifestyle.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You should be looking over your investments and making any changes that are needed. You should be able to resolve any issues regarding legal matters .

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be prepared to deal with cnanges to your personal life. Partnership issues will arise and should be handled with caution. You don't want to make a quick decision today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can accomplish the most if you work in conjunction with others today. You can make changes regarding your work that will benefit everyone around you. You have what it takes to achieve your goals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There will be lots of changes going on around you, especially where your friends and youngsters are concerned. Focus on your creative abilities and don't be afraid to show your work to others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stop living in your own little world and realize that there are plenty of people who love and care about you. Open your heart and your home to those willing to lend you a hand.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Plan to do something special with friends or relatives. Your involvement in social events will lead to meeting someone very special. Expect to find out interesting news today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your mind should be on your career and making money. Don't take on too much or you might miss a very special opportunity. Luck is with you if you play the odds.

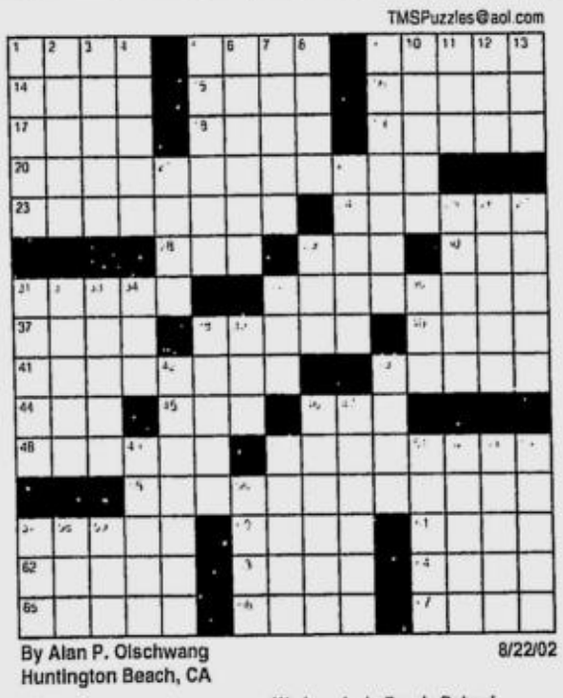
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be emotional concerning your personal life. Let your feelings be known and stand by your convictions. It's time to discuss your future plans with the people that you will affect.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will have the opportunity to get involved in a very good investment. An older family member may need your assistance. Your help will be appreciated and you will receive rewards for your kindness.

Birthday Baby: You will be reluctant to ask for help and inquisitive enough to figure things out for yourself. You will be forceful, true to yourself and ready for anything.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 Name
5 Time gone by
9 Velocity detector
14 Not aweather
15 Division word
16 Ham it up
17 Operatic prima donna
18 Have the lead
19 Pear-shaped instruments
20 Start of Evan Esar quote
23 More minute
24 Turns inside out
28 Shade provider
29 Comprehend
30 Ump's call
31 Reddish yellow
35 Part 2 of quote
37 Fay of "King Kong"
38 Arledge of TV sports
40 Sub shop
41 Part 3 of quote
43 Burdened
44 Ike's arena
45 Pollution patrol grp.
46 Friend in Marseilles
48 Gay Nineties or Roaring Twenties
50 Fellow player
55 End of quote
57 Lake near Reno
60 "Norma" song
61 Buddhist monk
62 Where the action is
63 Thailand, once
64 Quick swims
65 Raised, as the ante
66 Mound.
67 Blackthorn

DOWN
1 West Point student
2 Animated
3 Embankment
4 Master
5 Flower part
6 Hymn of loyalty
7 One of a flight
8 Actor Rip
9 Experiences anew
10 Entertain
11 Speck
12 Had lunch
13 Notes of scales
21 Belgian river
22 Gaggle of honkers
25 Dressed as a judge
26 Veil material
27 Beer mug
29 Scion
31 Possessed
32 Center of Minoan culture
33 Widespread confusion
34 Look at
35 "Annabel Lee" poet
36 Actress Lupino
38 Indian bread?
39 Explorer Johnson
42 Carrot-top
43 Describe
46 Antenna
47 Lana Turner movie, "__ X"
49 Make amends
50 Shinto temple gateway
51 Lays down cards
52 To no __
53 Relative speed
54 Obliterate
56 Hornet's cousin
57 Greek cross
58 French avant-garde artist
59 Cadence count word

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

8/22/02

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	P	A	T		E	B	B	E	D		A	J	A	R
H	O	B	O		C	L	A	R	A		T	A	L	E
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T	R	E	A	T	E	D		B	H	I	E	F		
			N	E	C		K	E	E	L		O	R	T
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A	X	E	S		B	A	T	E	S		A	D	E	N
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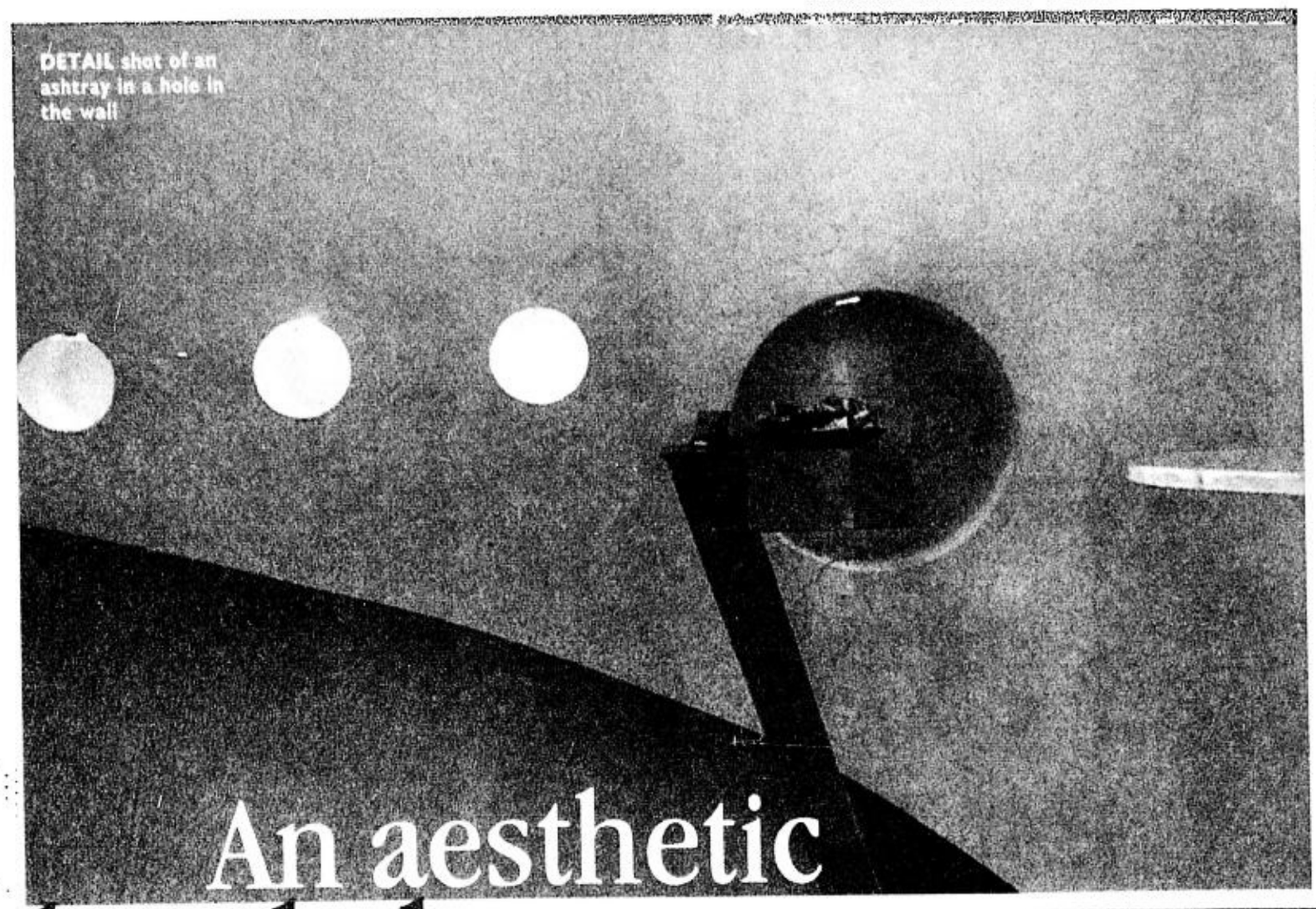


DETAIL shot of an ashtray in a hole in the wall

An aesthetic backdrop and a drink

Text by Gina Abuyuan
Contributor
Photos by Jude Thaddeus L. Bautista

Acquario is a calming and intelligent bar; there's good conversation amid fine artistic cultivation

AS cool as an ice cube and as stark as a bloom in the gray of winter, Acquario Liquid Lounge (1820 Ma. Orosa St., Malate, Manila, tel. 522-7066) stands like a tall glass of Metzaluna amid a slush of brews and rhum Cokes. From the outside—especially on a rainy night—with droplets and the condensation forming on the windows, the temptation to step inside is just too much to ignore. Chances are you'll give in, swing in through the semi-revolving door (that is, if the doorman allows you to), and bask in its utter... er, whiteness.

Minimalist without being pretentious, bare without being plain, Acquario looks like something out of art director, photographer and furniture designer Fabien Baron's head—lots of white space, lots of play with light and a stilling sensuality that cradles rather than shocks you. Superimpose the walls with fonts, and Acquario could easily be a page out Harper's Bazaar. But it's not, and neither is Acquario a Baron opus. Once inside, you'll find the trademark stamps of the collaboration between owner DJ Montano and modernist architect Ed Calma.

"I've always loved the water," says DJ. "It's the essence of everything—it's the essence of life." The Aquarian (born in February, "*acquario* is Italian for Aquarius," he explains), who also owns RAJ Modern Indian Restaurant next door, swears by the calming qualities of water. He lives in a condo on Roxas Boulevard, which gives him an expansive view of Manila Bay. "I've always found water to be something very soothing. And I wanted everything in this bar to be influenced by water."

Calming it is: like the woozy, boozy feeling of a night gone right and a head buzzing with cocktails mixed to perfection, Acquario gives you the feeling of being part of the drink itself—whether it be a benign blushing piña colada or razor-sharp chili vodka-tini.

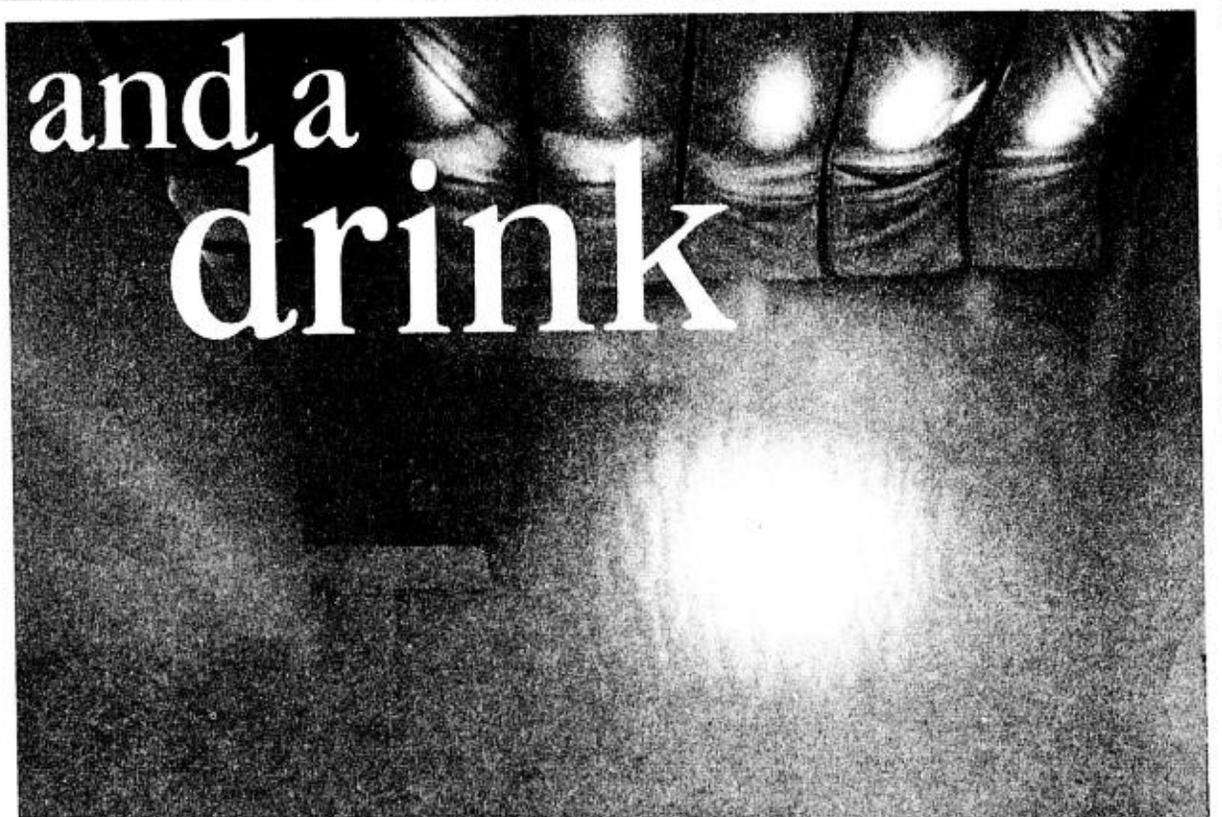
DJ says Acquario was inspired by the experience of all the bars he's been to around the world—Barfly, Buddha Bar, Aphrodisia, Medusa in New York, London and Spain—a place where intelligent, well-connected people could mingle and converse without having to rely on the numbing, decadent effects of too much alcohol to have a good time.

This in mind, he had a distinct idea of what he wanted his own bar to look like: "something very modern, very flowing, so I took on Ed Calma to help me—and he let go of all this creative energy, and it just exploded!"

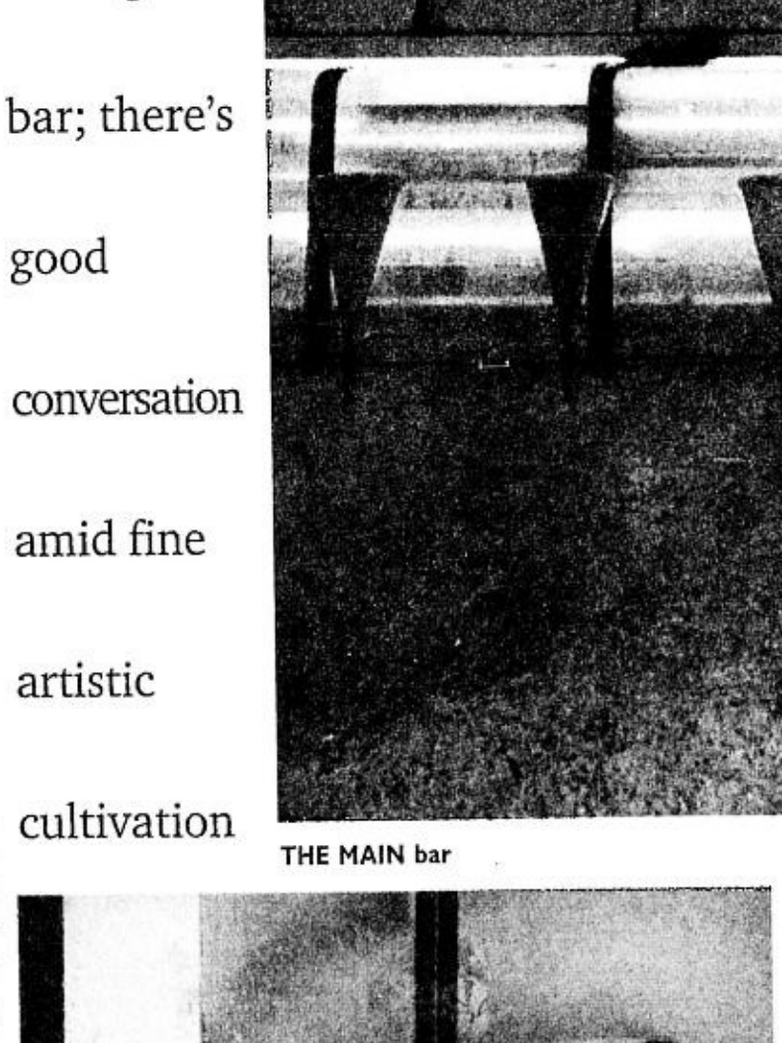
Exploded may just be too strong a term to describe the subtle but lasting impact Acquario has on the client and—on the viewer. The night of the grand opening—July 10, when the bar resembled a *halo-halo* instead of a well-blended smoothie—isn't your regular Acquario scene, with people teeming over and about the bar grounds, falling all over each other as the night progressed. Instead, on regular days, the place is reputed to turn certain types away. "I believe in the element of crowd control," DJ says. "It's very, very important in a bar. You have to control the people who come in; I can't let people in here with rubber slippers or ripped-apart shirts. Let's face it, this can be quite a cruel society, if they look like the type of people who won't enjoy the place, then we turn them away. And I don't want my guests to feel uncomfortable (cramped); I want the place to be as relaxed as possible," he admits, an almost apologetic smile on his face offsetting the snootiness of his statement.

Light and shadow

As opposed to wanting to rake in the big bucks through packing the place in, or whipping up a dish with any two-bit ingredient found in the market, DJ—like the Switzerland-trained chef he is—would rather wait and have the finer components of Manila's crowd make up the potage that fills Acquario's interiors. You'd have to be a shadow not to be noticed in the place—although shadows themselves are part of the design element. "We made use of light to make the space whatever you want it to achieve," says Ed, referring to a wall double-projection of bubbles that turn green, pink and blue. The effect—along with the deep house, lounge, chill and alternative dance music spun by DJ Erwin Edralin—is positively hypnotic.



THE MAIN bar



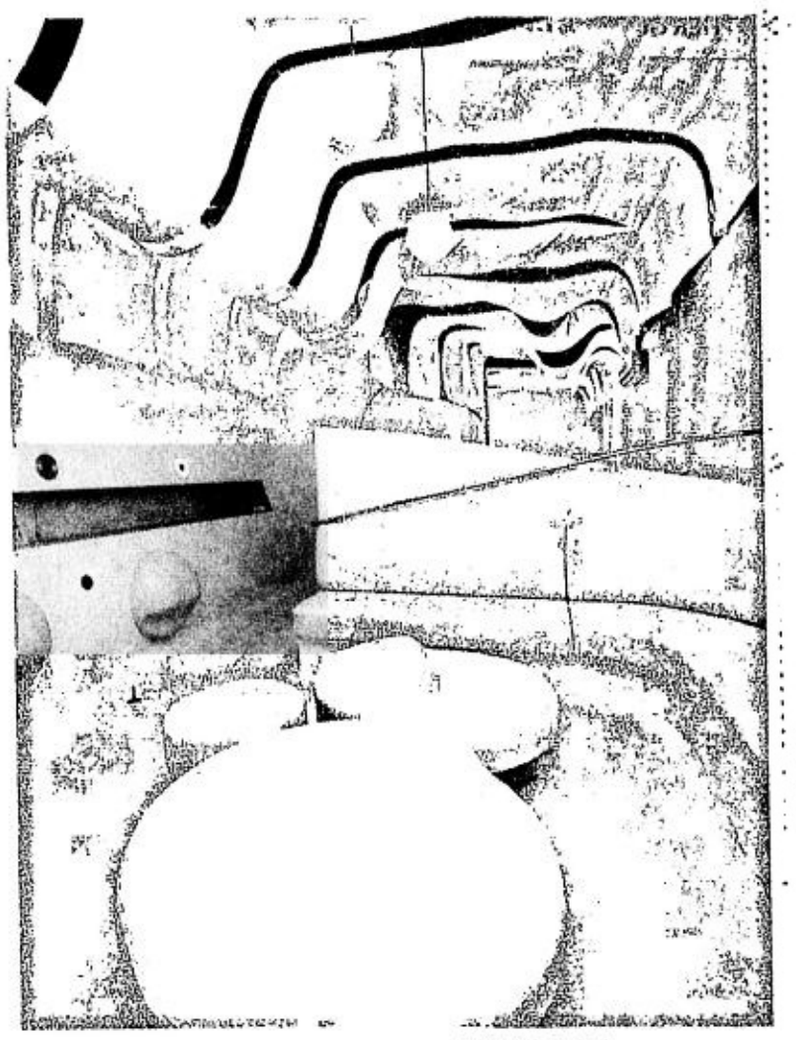
ON A RAINY night, the temptation to step inside is just too much to ignore.

Light plays a dominant role against the curvilinear walls, which adds to the overall "seamless" effect of the place. "By the name itself," says Ed, "the space, the components, take on the theme. There are no joints, no indication of difference of material—the wood, concrete and fabric are like one."

True to the theme, the materials used in the construction can themselves "conform to any form, cast into any shape," adds Ed. Even the glass is glued—rather than nailed on or bolted—to the steel frames of the façade; white cotton fabric, held up by wires, slopes against the ceiling to act as both a continuous contour element from the walls and a sound insulator.

"All the materials suggest that they're made out of something like water. Like water, which takes the form of its container, you interact with the architecture," adds Ed, "there are no distinctions between the furniture and the walls." The seats upstairs can acquire the function of beds-seats-tables; the grab bars, which in a traditional sense can be called banisters, also turn into design elements, their silver curves serving as accents on the walls.

While the doors to the bathrooms slide on casters, the walls have no corners; concrete blends into leatherette surfaces, which swell out into semi-seats where guests can lean on in "lounge pose," and solve the problem of having bulky chairs and tables take up space in the narrow hallway. On the second floor, they take the form of rounded pillows, which DJ and his friends have affectionately called "wall breasts" —poufed-up mounds that seem to bubble from out of the walls.



THE UPPER lounge

Interactive

"We want to encourage people to stand up and mingle, to be in lounge pose—kind of sitting down, or standing up, where it's easier to get up, where you aren't so lazy. I want people to interact, cause that's what a bar should be about, interacting and communicating with people, having a good time," DJ explains. "I want to take away 'substance-influenced' fun—and just make it having fun with your friends, talking, listening to good music."

The interiors and intentions cater highly to Acquario's ever-demanding clientele. "The market is fickle," DJ says. "You have to give people something different. Filipinos have been so accustomed to going to bars, getting themselves drunk with beer, and coming home feeling really empty-headed, with no worthwhile experience. You have to give people a bit of culture. This is what Malate is all about."

Other points of interest: Acquario's impressive wine list, that doesn't discriminate old-world and new-world vintages—alongside more conventional Italian and French brands, it offers Chilean and Argentinean choices. The martinis are another reason to imbibe, which feature classic mixes like the usual vermouth and olive type, or more adventurous blends like the aforementioned chili vodka-tini (Peppar vodka with *siling labuyo*), and decadent choco-Ferrero-tini (served with a Ferrero chocolate and a cinnamon stick). And more than just a watering hole, DJ plans to hold special cultural events, like performances from Ballet Philippines, or "a woman in a long, black dress playing classical cello in a corner."

Entertainment details like this are matched with design details such as the anthuriums and orchids (both white) in large transparent glass vases; the bar and the cocktail tables, which take on the shape and effect of molten lava frozen in a precipitous drip; and the stems of the tables, which are tubes of aerated liquid, percolating their irrepeatable bubble-designs.

"That's handmade glass," explains Ed, "it's custom-made, made of several sheets of glass to achieve a color and texture you cannot find anywhere else." The color is gem-like blue; the texture is smooth yet raw, what with the imperfect pattern of bubbles frozen in time. The aerated table stems are DJ's input, which he says were "tough to install. We had to tear out the floor, put them in, tear it out again if they didn't work. But it's a detail, and it stands out—and I think that's what matters." Such as the ashtrays that are not found on the tables but in the walls themselves—holes of steel embedded in the white leatherette, which guests consider another notable novelty in the place.

But then, in a bar like Acquario, everything else can be a novelty, depending on who steps in and stays. Unlike other places that fashion themselves as the visual destination, Acquario has an almost interactive-art quality about it. Rather than treat the establishment as a piece of art in itself and slap on the wall hangings, fixtures, and riot of color found in other bars to make the painting whole, Acquario *is* the canvas. The clients are part of the picture; the establishment is the palette. "I think people should stand out in a bar, not the bar," DJ says. "That's what a lot of people realize when they come here."

When it's hot, it's hot

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Johnny Villena

THERE'S nothing like the sweet aroma of good food to lure this man to walk a mile. Like Alice in Wonderland intrigued by the White Rabbit, searching for that perfect meal is an adventure this man earnestly pursues.

So it was that when Filipino-Chinese businessman Jacinto Uy was on a trip to Beijing he discovered authentic Sichuan cuisine at the Beijing Sichuan Restaurant (the same restaurant that once feted Hillary Clinton and Margaret Thatcher) and decided to bring home not just the recipes, but the chefs, spices, sauces, oils, dried meat and vegetables.

"We negotiated with the restaurant, and they agreed to let us learn everything we needed to know about Sichuan food," he says. That means importing four chefs—some on a year's contract—and other essential ingredients to make the Filipino's dining experience truly authentic. "We only eat three times a day so the meal might as well be great."

Since Uy already owns Fishing Village Restaurant at the Golden Bay Hotel (247 Padre Faura corner Roxas Boulevard, Manila), he decided to split the place in two sections. Today, one part houses his barely 3-week-old baby, the Sichuan section.

SAUTÉED Crabs with Dry Red Chili

BRAISED Whole Lapu-Lapu with Spicy Bean Sauce

No MSG

Although some ingredients can be sourced locally, Uy chooses to import because Sichuan soil is so fertile and the climate so mild the Chinese can grow a wide variety of spices and herbs year-round. Since Uy wants everything to taste exactly the way he savored them in Beijing, the Sichuan section will import ingredients all year long.

That the food's prices are not staggering is treat enough but the real bonus is that the Sichuan section does not use MSG seasoning—an abstinence that rarely happens in Chinese-Filipino kitchens. Customers are always assured they will experience the unadulterated taste of the empathetically flavored cuisine called Sichuan. Yes, some recipes are fierce but where would Sichuan cuisine be without the hot peppers, the chili sauces and other spices?

Master chef Su Da Li and sous chef Ma Jian put in hours of work in the kitchen to come up with delicious dishes for lunch. The thick hot soup of chicken broth, fish maw, shark's fin, sea cucumber and fresh scallop, called Special Ancient Red Mansion Chef, takes Chef Li 15 hours to make. No kidding, and that's why a bowl costs a serious P700. Rest assured that's the only expensive item on the menu. While the texture might be thick and concentrated, no starch is ever used in Sichuan cooking. Soups are condensed slowly over low fire before sauces are added.

The dishes at Fishing Village are emphatically Sichuan, minus the MSG

BEEF Sinews with Chili Bean Sauce

Spices of life

The resto offers genuine Sichuan cold appetizers, ranging from marinated bamboo shoots with onion oil, sliced pork with garlic and soya sauce, thinly sliced marinated beef in Sichuan sauce, Sichuan pickled cabbage (cauliflower, cabbage, carrots in Chinese wine) and the chewy braised Sichuan white kidney bean. Most are imported from Sichuan, frozen fresh.

The liberal use of pepper in some restos—enough to damage one's taste buds and ruin the entire gastronomical feast—is not encountered here either. In fact, the spicy flavorings on their dishes enhance the flavor of the meat—whether fish, prawns, crabs.

Spicy food lovers will delight in Sautéed Crabs with Dry Red Chili, precracked with generous chunks of juicy, succulent flesh peeking from the cracks. Another hot dish is Sautéed Prawns with Garlic and Chili Sauce, shelled prawns on a bed of red-hot chili sauce—enough to work up some excitement on the nasal passage, but very appetizing just the same. Or, for those who like to take chili in moderation, there's Beef Sinews with Chili Bean Sauce, soft, gooey *litid*, imported from Sichuan, with slices of mushrooms.

Other notable dishes are Red Mansion Banquet, an interesting mix of deep-fried eggplant and assorted nuts; Pan-Fried Beans with Dried Vegetable, also imported from Sichuan; the ultra soft Braised Fish Maw with Sliced Chicken, Ham and Bamboo Shoots; and Braised Whole Lapu-Lapu with Spicy Bean Sauce.

While most of the dishes are fried, none of the food is grossly oily as in other Chinese restaurants.

Introduced in Sichuan only 200-300 years ago, peppers have since become an important ingredient in about a quarter of Sichuan food recipes as they help maintain the body's temperature in cold weather. In the Philippines, Sichuan cuisine makes for one excellent rainy-day comfort food. And at Food Village there's no need to worry about tongues burning. The menu—printed, by the way, in China—indicates how hot the dishes are by the number of chili peppers, three being the hottest.

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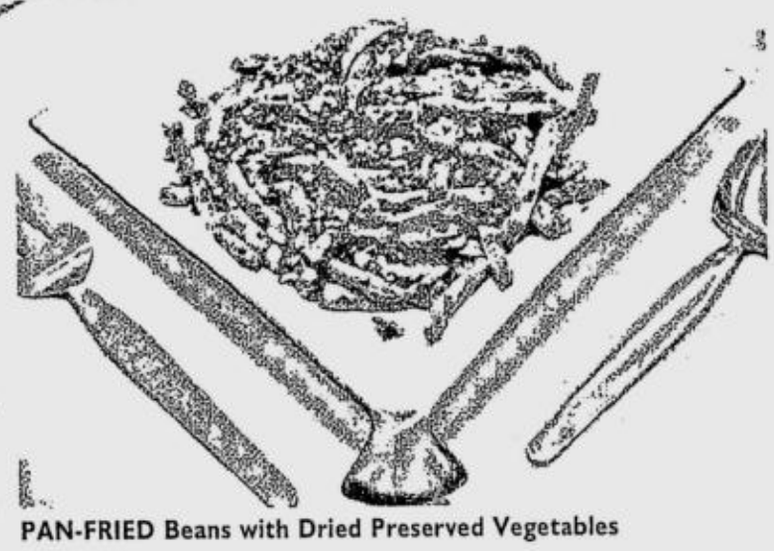


PAN-FRIED Beans with Dried Preserved Vegetables

FISHING Village Restaurant GM Lourdes Chu, sous chef Ma Jian, owner Jacinto Uy and master chef Sun Da Li

STROKE DRUG SHOWS PROMISE FOR TREATING STROKES

SAN ANTONIO, Despite dozens of failed studies, experimental new drugs designed to protect the brain from self-destruction after a stroke may lead to useful treatments after all.

THE SEARCH for so-called neuroprotective drugs has been frustrating. So far, more than 50 of them have looked encouraging in animal experiments, but all have failed to work when tested on people.

However, the new data suggest that if enough patients are studied - and they are measured the right way - some of the drugs indeed may be proven to work.

"Millions upon millions of dollars have been spent on research for these agents, and we don't have a positive study. However, we have done a lot of head scratching, and we have some good news," said Dr. Philip Gorelick, director of stroke research at Chicago's Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, who was not involved in the latest work.

Two analyses presented at an American Stroke Association meeting in San Antonio found that one of these medicines, called citicoline, shows promise of lessening stroke severity..

Citicoline, is designed to prevent a disastrous chemical chain reaction that makes strokes grow in size in the days following their onset.

TOO LATE

The only medicine that reverses the spiral of brain damage is TPA, the clot buster, but only about 2 percent of stroke victims each year get the drug. Most have other medical complications or arrive at the hospital too late for the drug to do any good.

An estimated 700,000 people per year in the United States suffer strokes. Strokes usually occur when a blood clot plugs an artery, starving nearby brain cells. These dying cells release large amounts of glutamate and other chemicals that poison surrounding cells, spreading the destruction. The goal of neuroprotective drugs is to stop this chain reaction.

Doctors theorize that some of the drugs failed largely because patients got them after too much time had passed. Also, some patients might have suffered migraines or seizures, not strokes at all.

Recently, precise new forms of MRI scans have become available that give detailed images of the developing stroke, so doctors have before and after snapshots of the drugs' effects.

These scans offer an objective way of measuring the benefits of neuroprotective drugs. Until now, doctors have relied on less precise assessments of stroke symptoms, such as whether patients can take care of themselves.

'NEUROPROTECTION DOES WORK'

Dr. Steven Warach, chief of stroke therapeutics at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, combined the results of two studies of citicoline that used the MRI scans. The studies involved 214 patients, half of whom got either 500-milligram or 2,000-milligram doses of citicoline.

Among patients taking dummy pills, the size of strokes increased 85 percent when measured 12 weeks after they began. By comparison, strokes grew 34 percent in patients getting the lower dose of citicoline and just 2 percent in those getting the higher dose. Those who responded to the drug with smaller strokes also had less severe symptoms.

"The key point is, neuroprotection in human stroke does work," Warach said.

Dr. Jeffrey Saver of the UCLA Stroke Center combined the results of all the reported citicoline studies, seven of them involving 1,963 patients. Taken together, the studies showed a statistically meaningful benefit.

The analysis suggests "there is a substantial treatment benefit. It has been obscured by small sample size in individual trials," Saver said.

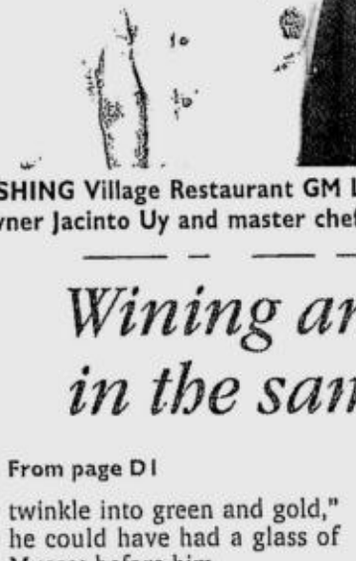
Wining and dining in the same breath

From page D1

twinkle into green and gold," he could have had a glass of Muscat before him.

Food revolution

Manila has come a long way from being a city of *turo-turos* and *panciterias* (although it sure looks like Manila Hotel is making a bid for it) and hasn't been for some time. Some decades ago, by all accounts, the gastronomic limits were deemed by roast beef and Cantonese adaptations. Today, it's possible to entertain a discussion of food as an idea (as opposed to merely about food on a plate). Food surrounded by theory and experiment is coming into its own, no little thanks to the late Doreen Fernandez, of course, and the other food critics who have followed in her footsteps.



FRENCH Ambassador Renée Veyret and Tita Trillo of Anthony's Wines

You could even say Manila is a city in the middle of a food revolution. There must be at least 2,000 restaurants where a hundred open and another hundred close every year.

Familiarity with a variety of tastes (whether Asian or Western) has had an enormous impact, and it has come to understand classic food and wine preparation much better. People are actually storing wine these days, investing in it, deriving pleasure from recognizing the tastes and perfumes of the varieties. They can speak to you of tannins and whether a wine is aged in oak or in vats made of protected concrete.

Now, none of these is necessarily for us. What we should know is there's really very little to beat drinking a glass of Chateaunef du Pape blanc from the vineyards of Chapoutier on a cold and rainy day.

MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Product quality tops consumers' plaints

By Tessa R. Salazar

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

EIGHTY-ONE auto consumers' complaints have been received through the Bureau of Trade Relations and Consumer Protection and the Department of Trade and Industry's National Capital Region during the period January to June 2002.

If the trend continues, this year would surpass last year's 96 automotive-related complaints filed in the NCR and the BTRCP.

The DTI attributes the marked increase in complaints to increased consumer awareness and the education drive through media. The Consumer Act, or Republic Act 7394, gives the DTI jurisdiction, authority and power to implement the provisions of the Consumer Act. Under that law, the DTI has jurisdiction over manufactured and processed products.

Consumers' complaints

Fifty-two of the auto consumers' complaints have been received through the Bureau of Trade Relations and Consumer Protection with product quality accounting for half of the number of complaints filed. Twenty-nine complaints have been filed at the DTI-NCR, with defective products accounting for 25 of them. The nationwide data on auto complaints, the DTI revealed, still have to be collated.

Full-size sports utility vehicles, midsize luxury pickups, Asian utility vehicles, sedans, luxury cars and vans are among those involved in the list of complaints filed at the DTI. The data obtained by the INQUIRER revealed the manufacturers' brands, the nature of complaints against these vehicles as well as the responding manufacturers, dealerships and service centers in Manila, Quezon City, Makati, Laguna, Mandaluyong and Las Piñas.

Other complaints cited were product warranty and service, undelivered goods, deceptive, unconscionable and misleading sales practices.

In 2001, the BTRCP recorded 45 complaints on motor vehicles, parts and accessories. Complaints received through the DTI-NCR for the whole of 2001 numbered 51, 36 of which were in the category of defective products. Other complaints pertained to breach of warranty and deceptive sales.

The DTI, however, refused to name the companies complained against. Most of the complaints, the DTI said, had been addressed and had been successfully mediated by the DTI.

Most complainants, according to Trade and Industry Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr., sometimes seek for an advice first, or make specific inquiries, before making a move.

The DTI's Bureau of Trade and Regulation and Consumer Protection has a consumer hotline at 890-4932 to guide consumers how to file complaints.

Necessary steps

Here are some necessary steps to effectively lodge your complaints:

- Identify the problem and what you believe would be a fair settlement. Do you want your money back? Would you like your product repaired? Will an exchange suffice?
- Gather documents related to your complaints. Keep your sales receipts, repair orders, warranties, checks or contracts.
- Call the person who sold you the item or performed the service. Explain the problem and what you would like to happen. If no settlement is reached, call the manager or supervisor. Most consumer problems are resolved at this level.
- If it isn't resolved in-store, write a formal letter of complaint to the consumer protection agency concerned. State the name, address and the establishment you are complaining against, the circumstances including the names, dates, places and enclose the supporting documents.
- It is preferable to write to the DTI office near where the establishment is. If the transaction was done in Batangas, write the DTI in Region 4. If it was done in Manila, lodge your complaint at the DTI-NCR. After mediation, and there still isn't any satisfactory outcome, the DTI will elevate it to the office of the legal affairs. If it isn't settled yet, it can now proceed to the normal courts.

Warranty rights

In filing a complaint, it is also important that the auto consumer knows the implementing rules and regulations, particularly those pertaining to warranty rights and the warranty period.

Vehicle warranties are usually effective for up to two years or 50,000 km, whichever comes first. Other manufacturers have been offering three-year warranties or 100,000 km. All Toyota models, Honda's new Civic and CR-V; Nissan Motor Philippines' all new Cefiro and the Serena models retroactive to their launch dates of June 6 and April 23, 2003 carry the extended warranties. BMW, on the other hand, has a worldwide warranty period of two years with no mileage limitation for those who purchased new vehicles and related parts and accessories from any authorized dealerships starting Nov. 1, 2001.

"I don't think there's such a thing as a perfect item. What assemblers are trying to do is stand behind its product, the integrity of its brand," said Truck Manufacturers Association president Elizabeth Lee during a previous interview. She added that manufacturers and dealers are willing to fix the problem, only if the product was used correctly or used for the purpose that it was intended.

Lee said that each assembler had a consumer relations department, so that if something happened there would be the customer complaints' desk, which would be an integral part of the department, to go to. And most problems could be fixed on-site, as the dealers have parts and service centers of their own. Most assemblers have technical advisers who guide and train the dealerships.

If the dealership isn't able to solve the problem, it comes to its assembler for help.

The procedures aren't so clear, however, when it comes to protection for consumers buying secondhand vehicles.

No expressed warranties

Cristobal said that secondhand products come with no "expressed" warranties. Under the Civil Code, however, he said, there are "implied warranties."

The "implied warranties" he said, are covered in the Consumer Act that deals with deceptive sales, practices and misleading representation.

Asked how the DTI had been addressing grievances of auto consumers, Cristobal said that complaints and cases resolved via DTI mediation have been increasing.

"I don't think it is fair to say that (DTI's) consumer protection (program) has no teeth because many complaints were resolved at the DTI level alone."

He said the Consumers' Act provides means of redress for consumers. Cristobal said the reason the DTI provides consumer complaints desks is for consumers to get immediate relief. "It's not so much to punish (manufacturers) but to give back what is due to the consumer," he said.

Isabela gets 20 dump trucks

THE PROVINCIAL government of Isabela, through Gov. Faustino S. Dy Jr., acquired 10 brand-new Isuzu FTR33 (6 cubic meter) dump trucks in March and additional 10 units recently.

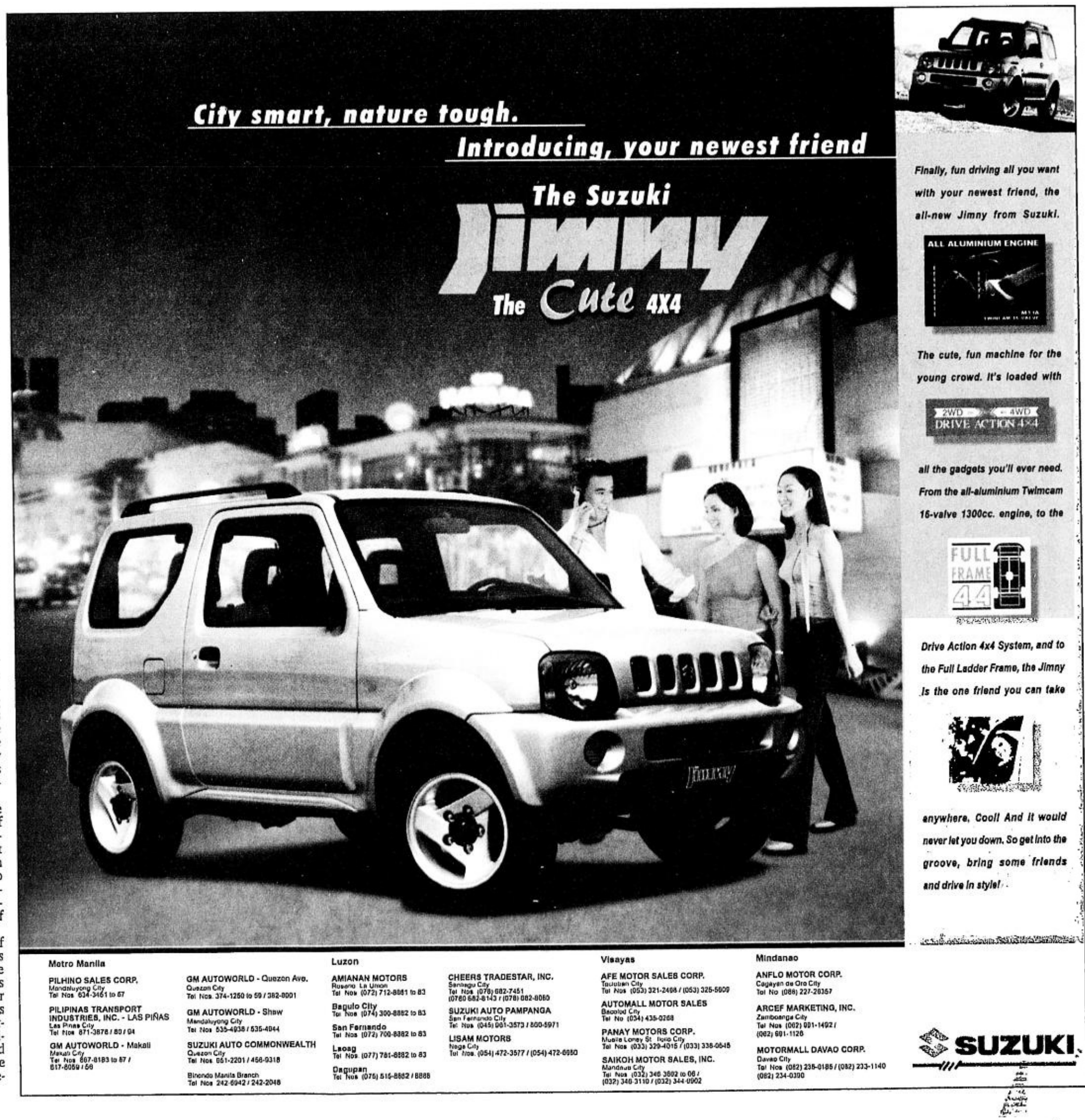
For the four districts of Isabela, the governor intends to utilize five dump trucks per district for the construction of more farm-to-market roads and other infrastructure to reach out to the remote areas of Isabela.

Dy plans to utilize the unproductive lands as one of the top priorities of the local government so farmers could plant corn and cassava.

Said Dy: "The aim of our local government is to provide for a balanced environment and to implement road projects for better transportation of farm products. Aside from giving improved services to our local residents, this will also invite investors, thus opening more opportunities for our province," He also added that he wants to ensure low maintenance costs and higher service efficiency.

In line with the rapid acceptance of hybrid rice for Northern Luzon, this project will complete the plan of the governor to mobilize all agricultural sectors in improving the lives of the people of Isabela.

The purchase of brand-new trucks will benefit the province since it is ensured of lower maintenance costs and most importantly, 100 percent efficiency is expected due to the absence of downtime repairs.



Ford extends conservation grants to more Southeast Asian nations

By Charles E. Buban

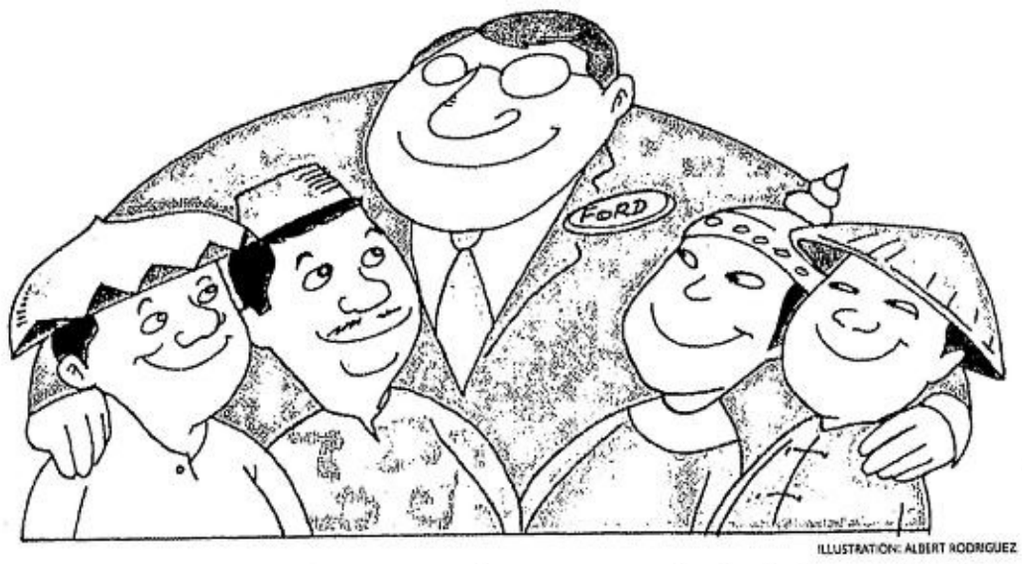


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THE SOUTHEAST Asian landscape is undergoing a dramatic transformation. Yet, there are things that should be left unchanged or at least restored in a state where it can still flourish—like the region's ecosystem and each country's cultural heritage. That is why those with the capacity to help out and influence were often given the social responsibility to initiate undertakings to fulfill this mission.

Indeed, the society is demanding much greater accountability from corporations. For Ford Motor Co. this time is its most exciting period—embarking on a path that will transform what used to be an old-line industrial firm into a model company for the 21st century.

3 obligations

In an interview several years back, Ford Motor Co. chair and CEO Bill Ford cited his company's three obligations:

- Provide superior returns to their shareholders.
- Give customers exactly what they're looking for.
- Do it in a way that has the least impact—or most benefit—for the environment and for society in general.

"Keeping an eye on all three of those equations is the recipe for future success," he said.

For its third objective, Ford Motor Co. is on the right track as it continues to address issues on pollution, experimenting on fuel cells and congestion. Not only that, the company has been financially supporting worthy projects aimed at protecting the natural environment, or preserving cultural heritage. Implemented in more than 50 countries worldwide, the Ford Motor Company Conservation and Environmental Grants is one of the largest programs of its kind in the world.

The grants originated from the Henry Ford European Conservation Awards established in Britain in 1983, which over its 17-year existence grew to encompass more than 15,000 projects and 110,000 individuals across 34 countries for consideration in four program categories: Natural Environment, Heritage, Conservation, Engineering and Child and Youth Projects.

Target region

When the project expanded worldwide in 2000, one of the target regions was Southeast Asia, particularly Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines. Past recipients range from hornbill conservation and a gibbons sanctuary in Thailand, restoration of an old shop-house of historical architectural value in Malaysia, a publication that records the history and heritage of the Aetas (indigenous tribe) in the Philippines, environmental education for schoolchildren in Vietnam, to the study on declining populations of amphibians in Singapore.

For this year, the project has been expanded to include Indonesia and Cambodia. Ford Motor Co. also increased the total grants allocated for the region to $351,000 (about P16 million). "Compared to the previous year, the applications received in 2001 not only improved in number but also in the quality, originality and diversity of the projects submitted. And with the grants being expanded to two more nations, we can carry the important message of conservation and protection to a bigger audience," expressed John Parker, president of Ford's Asean operations.

Unique program

The Ford Motor Company Conservation and Environmental Grants is unique since it reaches the grass roots. The program is designed to empower individuals or small nonprofit groups to maintain and develop ongoing projects that help conserve nonrenewable resources and preserve valuable aspects of cultural heritage within their local communities.

Said Maricar Cristobal-Parco during the project's formal launch at Ford Makati: "Interested individuals and groups are invited to secure a standard form and submit them to the Ford Group Philippines headquarters in Santa Rosa, Laguna. For other details, they can also visit any Ford dealer located nationwide."

The types of projects eligible for the Ford Grants must fall within the following areas:

- Natural environment (projects to conserve flora, fauna and/or their respective habitats)
- Heritage (projects to conserve man-made aspects of national or Asian heritage, and cultural art forms)
- Conservation (projects to reduce the rate of consumption of natural resources and/or pollution)
- Child and youth projects (any conservation project involving young people aged 18 or under)

The juries will consider each application based on its merits for usefulness and practicality, dedication and commitment of its participants, financial need, originality and replicability.

In describing the grants' past recipients, Parker said: "Generating awareness is key and many of our past recipients are shining examples of ordinary people within their communities who have demonstrated extraordinary amounts of dedication, commitment and love for our common planet. These selfless and tireless heroes of the planet demonstrate that every effort, small or large, can make a difference toward the preservation of our heritage, culture and environment for our future generations. Eventually, we hope that the grants will be inspirational to others, and that they will have a multiplier effect, especially among the younger generation."

Metal railings on roads a waste of money

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I CAN'T understand why the government keeps on putting metal railings, if not orange-colored pylons, on many of the major roads of the metropolis.

They are just a waste of money.

The obvious rationale for all that stupidity is to force vehicles to fall in line so as not to cause a traffic jam on approaches to, say, a flyover, a forked road or an exit point such as those found on both the South and North Expressways. Most motorists have this nasty habit of getting impatient and electing to overtake even if it's not right to do it.

* * *

Instead of these metal railings and orange-colored pylons, why not a concrete wall instead? This way, you automatically eliminate the impatient from our midst.

For, once they overtake, the concrete wall will automatically divert them to destinations not of their own liking.

Do our government officials know that many of the metal railings get stolen at dawn? Who steals them, only our officials know.

Gosh, these metal railings give some people brisk business in the metal/wrought iron industry.

* * *

Is it true, as the papers reported, that Bayani Fernando will put to the torch the "business establishments" of the sidewalk vendors in Divisoria? That he will pour kerosene on the stalls and next set them on fire?

Darn! I can't think of a crazier idea than that.

If true, then Fernando must be out of his mind. Will somebody please restrain him from committing outright arson?

The Bilibid Prisons is extremely crowded at the moment as to accommodate another inmate. As to the Mandaluyong hospital, I do not have the faintest of ideas if it can fit in another patient or not.

So, quick, bring in the handcuffs, if not the "straight jacket."

* * *

Toyota takes the lead once more in making the business of owning your own car the easy way.

The Toyota Financial Services Philippines Corp. is the answer to that. TFS for short, the company is a new concept here but not in Asia. In fact, it's been around in this globe made increasingly and unceasingly smaller by the Cellfone Age.

"With the entry of TFS, it makes the process of owning your car almost in a breeze," said Danny Isla, first vice president for marketing of Toyota Motor Philippines. "That way, it also makes our job of selling Toyota vehicles a lot easier now."

Danny I. was joking, of course. As the country's best-selling car for years, Toyota's business of selling has never been put in grave peril. Not even once, I guess.

* * *

The current practice is for you to go to a bank and the bank will offer you a package to choose from when buying your dream car. In reality, you have a choice of what financing scheme to adopt. However, your choice is limited only to the ones listed by the bank.

This time, you can have your own choice packaged according to your own specifications. With the entry of TFS, your payment schedule will be structured to your own liking.

Whereas in a bank you will have to deal with a "rigid package" that has virtually limited options on your part, with TFS you need not worry much about your paying capacity.

"With us, your worry of how to

METAL/ p. E3

Introducing the new *Aura Nexus* ...
It is designed for the 21st Century motorists with its lightweight and stylish innovation. Also enjoy its user-friendly, durable, and highly maneuverable features.

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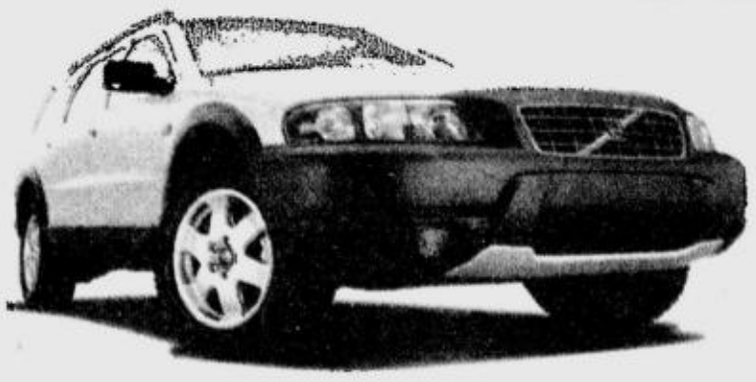


Volvo V70 XC: neither boxy nor boring

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHO says all Volvos are boxy and boring? You'll never think that again once you lay your eyes on the stunning V70 XC AWD and grab the wheel. A state-of-the-art semi-off-road crossover vehicle combining the best features of SUVs and estate cars (station wagons to us non-Brits), the all-new 2002 Volvo Cross Country V70 XC AWD is the latest iteration of the Cross Country series launched by Volvo in 1997.

In the niche of luxury all-wheel-drive sport wagons, the V70 XC has competitors like the Audi Allroad, Subaru Legacy Outback H6 and Lexus RX300. But these competitors cannot quite match Volvo's reputation for safety, comfort and reliability. And they are not sold in the Philippines.

Elegant yet tough

With the V70 XC, flexibility to the nth degree is added to traditional Volvo values. The V70 XC is the ultimate go-anywhere car, elegant enough to make an impressive entrance on the driveway of a five-star hotel or polo club yet tough enough, with its fully automatic AWD system, 16-inch alloy wheels, chunky 215/65 R16 98H Pirelli Scorpion tires and high (209 mm) ground clearance, to tackle dirt tracks and all sorts of terrain in the countryside. Its long-haul, cross-country capability is being proven as you read this by round-the-world driver Christer Gerlach, who is covering 40,000 kilometers in a V70 XC from Stockholm to Sicily, Egypt, Australia and the United States.

But don't ever think that the V70 XC is a sport utility vehicle in disguise. Quite the opposite, because the V70 XC does not look like a hippo on wheels and it is not a gas guzzler. Viewed frontally, the V70 XC has the strong, commanding stance of an SUV but viewed from the side, its sculpted yet smooth-flowing lines and sleek profile assure you of more European quality and finesse inside.

More importantly, the V70 XC is kinder and gentler to the environment than an SUV as it consumes less fuel. The V70 XC (automatic transmission) consumes 11.5 liters/100 km on the average, in mixed driving conditions. Mainly because they weigh so much more, SUVs in the same size class and with engines producing the same output consume three to four liters more than this for every 100 km.

No slouch

Its fuel thriftiness does not mean that the V70 XC is a slouch. Its transversely mounted five-cylinder, 20-valve with variable valve timing, 2.4-liter light-pressure-turbocharged aluminum engine delivers max horsepower of 200 bhp/6,000 rpm and 285 Nm/1,800-6,000 rpm max torque, capable of hitting 100 km/h from zero in 9 seconds and maintaining a top speed of 220 km/h. Mated to a five-speed Geatronic adaptive automatic transmission, the V70 XC's high-torque powerplant makes driving an exhilarating pleasure.

In highway traffic and on the Skyway, I found the V70 XC a surprisingly maneuverable lane darter despite its length and width (the Cross Country is broader, longer, higher and has a wider track width up front than the standard V70). Attribute this sporty road handling and stability to the car's low center of gravity (despite its high ground clearance), spring struts up front, advanced multiple rear suspension links, anti-roll bars front and rear plus TRACS anti-spin on all four wheels.

The supple, well-tuned chassis, plus the fact that the V70 XC is built on the same platform as the V70 estate wagon and S80 sedan, provide a comfortable ride even on day-long trips with none of the bouncing and harshness usually associated with truck-based SUVs. After all, this is the Volvo Cross Country, so its cabin and leather seats are ergonomically designed for plush, comfortable long-haul motoring, whatever the road surface. For lack of space, I will not list all of the V70 XC's conveniences other than to confirm that its suite of creature comforts leaves nothing to be desired.

Safety leader

When it comes to automotive safety, Volvo is the undisputed world leader. Aside from dual stage front airbags, the V70 XC protects its occupants with WHIPS whiplash protection, SIPS side-impact airbags and the inflatable curtain. Not to mention disc brakes front and rear with ABS, electronic brake force distribution and the additional security provided by all-wheel-drive.

Bottom line: If I were the head of a growing family and can buy and keep only one car, I'd surely choose a Volvo Cross Country V70 XC AWD. Provided, of course, that I'd have the P2,945,000 to pay for it.

***

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Relax, it's just a lane change.

***

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

Toyota dominates July sales

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. continues to reign as the best-selling automotive manufacturer in the country by topping industry sales last July.

Toyota reported sales of 2,224 units last month reflecting a 30 percent improvement from the same period last year. It also achieved the top position in passenger cars and commercial vehicles by registering the highest series output in both categories last month.

Market leadership

The country's top automaker further strengthened its hold on market leadership by capturing an estimated 30 percent market share last month while its closest rival, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. came in second with sales of 1,220 units, or about 17 percent market share. Honda Cars Philippines Inc. held on to the third position with sales of 1,036 units, or about 15 percent of the July auto market.

Total sales tally for the year also places Toyota at the top of the helm with year-to-date sales of 13,854 units, a jump of 34 percent from last year. Mitsubishi, on the other hand, comes in a distant second with their total sales of 9,232 units, which gives them 20 percent of the market. Honda rounds out the top three with their sales of 6,434 units for an estimated 14 percent of the market.

Passenger cars

In the passenger car category, Toyota continues its streak in a bid to regain the leadership from erstwhile leader Honda by selling a total of 875 passenger cars last month. Buoyed up by the strong sales of the Altis and the new Camry, Toyota managed to capture 46 percent of the total passenger car market.

Honda, on the other hand, has managed to achieve a total of 3,856 units for this year while Mitsubishi is currently the third best selling passenger car brand with total sales of 1,000 units.

Commercial vehicles

Toyota also topped sales of the commercial vehicle category in July with a total of 1,349 units sold. Despite the stiff competition in its class, the consistently strong demand for the best selling Revo continues to push Toyota at the top of the commercial vehicle marker.

Toyota currently leads the year-to-date sales tally of the commercial vehicles with total sales of 8,821 units. Mitsubishi follows suit with its total sales of 8,232 while Isuzu is in third with its 6,127 total commercial vehicles currently sold for the year.

SHELL WINS ITS 15TH FORMULA ONE WORLD CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Ferrari, Shell's technical partner won the Hungarian Grand Prix last Sunday with Rubens Barrichello finishing ahead of Michael Schumacher. The result gives Ferrari an unassailable lead in the Constructors' Championship with 4 races still remaining.

The victory marks the partnership's 6th Constructors' Championship together and is the pairing's 99th Formula One Grand Prix victory. Both records are unmatched in Formula One. In addition, Shell also won the Formula One World Constructors' Championship last Sunday for the 15th time. Last Sunday's result is the climax of a thrilling season for the Shell and Ferrari team. Shell fuels and lubricants have powered and protected the Ferrari team whose cars have won all but two of the thirteen races so far this year. This race also marked Shell and Ferrari's 49th consecutive podium finish - a world record and a stunning testimony to the reliability the partners have been able to achieve.

2002 FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

(After 13 Grand Prix Races)

DRIVERS' STANDINGS	
M. SCHUMACHER	112
BARRICHELLO	45
R. SCHUMACHER	40
MONTOYA	40
COULTHARD	34
RAIKKONEN	20

TEAMS' STANDINGS	
FERRARI	157
WILLIAMS	80
McLAREN	54
RENAULT	15
SAUBER	11
JORDAN	7

The Shell team is an integral part of today's success and its importance to Ferrari cannot be underestimated. For example, Shell delivers Ferrari with more than 220,000 liters of fuel and 40,000 kilograms of lubricants throughout a year for its Formula One and road car project. That is a staggering 150 deliveries to 20 different circuits in 15 different countries! Around 40 people are directly involved with the blending and dispatch of Ferrari's fuel and lubricants and regardless of the roles played in the project, all have earned themselves the ultimate accolade, a Formula One World Championship. As well as helping Ferrari to clean up on the track, Shell is also helping to clean up the environment.

By working closely with Ferrari, Shell is able to lead the fuel industry in producing fuels that burn more efficiently and are thus more environmentally friendly, drastically reducing world-wide emissions. In fact, thanks to the relationship with Ferrari, the fuels that Shell sell worldwide reduce emissions by such an extent that it is like creating a rainforest 100 times the size of Manhattan every year. Speaking after the race, Shell's Global Sponsorship Manager, Juan Carlos Perez said, "What a year! Not only did Michael win the title so early in the season, but we defended our Constructors' Championship in style. Everything the team has been working so hard towards has come together today on the race track. Team, drivers, mechanics and Shell engineers all worked together perfectly this weekend and it is good to see it pay off this way. Well done everybody!" David Barnes, Shell's Global Motorsport Business Manager said, "I joined the Shell team at the beginning of the year and knew I would be joining a strong team but I was struck by exactly how hard the Ferrari and Shell teams would work. 2002 has been a bounty year for us, with Shell products performing exactly how we projected in the cars. Not only that, but each time we brought a new fuel or lubricant to a race, we came away with a victory - not a bad record I'm sure you'll agree!"

Work is already well underway by Shell and Ferrari on the new engine and car for the 2003 season. With both Championships successfully defended this year, Shell and Ferrari can focus their efforts on 2003. With such a pedigree and such an impressive season, any pretenders to next year's crowns have their work cut out.

SHELL

Superior engine protection proven in the extreme.

Metal railings on roads. . .

From p. E2

own a car is almost zero," said Dexter P. Pasion, TFS president. "Our business is making you buy your own car the easiest, fastest way."

***

The TFS president (Dexter P. Pasion) is not new to consumer relations. Prior to joining the TFS as its top honcho, Dexter headed the consumer banking center of the International Exchange Bank.

"He joined our company armed with the perfect weapons to address consumer needs," said Ariel de Jesus, public affairs officer of Toyota Motor Philippines.

Dexter spent seven years in pioneering, witnessing and taking a direct hand in the growth and expansion of Ibank's retail products and services. He left the bank with the rank of first vice president. His previous jobs were at BA Finance Corp. (1977-1985), Interbank, RCBC and Insular Bank. He was at various times also a credit investigator, account counselor and dealer coordinator.

An A.B. Economics graduate of San Beda, Dexter, born in Laoag City, is married to Connie de Ocampo; they have 3 children.

"Was I glad I joined Toyota?" asked Dexter. "Customer satisfaction has always been my passion. With Toyota, it couldn't get any better."

***

The TFS style is almost a rental scheme. If you feel like you don't like your car anymore, you can return it. Just make sure you are up-to-date with your payments and no problem. You can even get a new one right after returning your "old" unit.

For the record, there are more buyers using the financing scheme than buyers on a cash basis. The ratio is 70-30.

If I can help it, I don't want buying things on installment basis. But I can't help it. I'm not rich.

Some business people prefer buying on installment. They have their own reasons.

If I were rich, I'd be buying cash. Trouble is, I'm not rich.

So, TFS watch out. I'm coming. Soon.

***

Public Service: Hari (Hyundai Asia Resources Inc.) has announced that you can now acquire a Starex for as low as P10,019 a month on a 50 percent down payment and a 60-month term.

Other amenities include free LTO registration, tint, matting and a one-year comprehensive insurance policy.

But here's the real steal: Every purchase of a Hyundai Starex carries a three-year (100,000-km) warranty. The promo is from Aug. 15 to Sept. 30.

***

QUOTE ME. The wiper blades should be at their sharpest during the rainy season.

Honda Philippines leads early participants of Motorshow Int'l

By Jun Alano
Contributor

LEADING car assembler and distributor Honda Philippines Inc. leads the list of early participants during the 13th season of Motorshow International (Philippines), the country's premier auto and cycle exhibition slated from Oct. 2 to 6 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila in Pasay City.

Honda Philippines will display during the exhibit two Honda Civic 2001 models, proven bestsellers that will surely bring much excitement and color to the annual show.

Other assemblers

Marisa Nallana, Motorshow director general, said other major car assemblers have likewise expressed interest in joining this year's exhibition although they have yet to finalize the details of their participation.

Other participants joining the 13th Motorshow season are Oriental and Motolite Corp. (manufacturer of Oriental and Motolite batteries); Dai-ichi Electronics Manufacturing Corp. (Dai-ichi car speakers, speaker systems, multimedia systems); MGME Marketing Corp. (Pioneer car audio/video components, DVD, plasma TV); Spirit Electronics System Inc. (Clarion car audio and accessories);

Artocad Creation Enterprises (car stickers, accessories and signages); Bizcom International Corp. (Uniq engine treatment, Pennzoil/Per'Tua oil lubricants. Turbo Stormy engine mixture); Clorox Philippines Inc. (Prestone brake fluid and coolant, STP brake fluid, Armor-All car wax); European Decals (car stickers and accessories);

More participants

Miles and Levels Philippines Inc. (Sun-Gard window films, Auto Gard car care products, Innoscents air fresheners, Imax automotive products, etc.); Republic Chemical Industries (Pioneer Epoxy, Rust-Oleum Road Warrior truck bed coating); Ropa Marketing/VNS Ventures (Dashield dashboard cover); US Chemical Products Mktg. Co. Inc. (Turtle Wax, WD-40, Fruitclub car freshener);

Auto Innovation (car accessories); Carryboy Philippines Inc. (Thailand-made Carryboy products, Gatorcab products); Comet Cycle Center (Maruni and other tire repair products, Raybrig tune-up parts); DAV Commercial/Dayco (US-made Dayco automotive products, Narva lamps and bulbs from Germany); Energy and Aviation Support Corp. (Eyquem F311 spark plugs, Ultima 500);

Hella Philippines Inc. (Hella lights and equipment, auxiliary lamps); Liftruk International (Australian-made EGR auto/SUV accessories); Rann-S Metalcraft and General Upholstery (bull bars, rear bars, tire carriers, leather seat covers); Reibet Auto Shoppe (Sparco car accessories, body repair and paint specialist); William Parts Corp. (Bilstein shock absorbers, Optibelt power transmission belts) and Z-Speed Motor Sports Products Inc. (Blue Thunder/R-Spec 6 performance ignition cables).

Lawmakers mad at Gloria, JDV over 'pork shortage'

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

4 killed in Cotabato

COTABATO—Armed men opened fire when their van was stopped at a military checkpoint here last night, killing one Marine and three civilians, police said.

Three other civilians and two Marines were wounded in the burst of gunfire, said police Senior Insp. Banarin Kamaong.

He said the van was leaving the city when it was halted at the checkpoint. An undetermined number of men inside began shooting with M-16 rifles, then sped away. *AP*

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Vi 'very much alive'

By Leah Salterio and Marinel R. Cruz

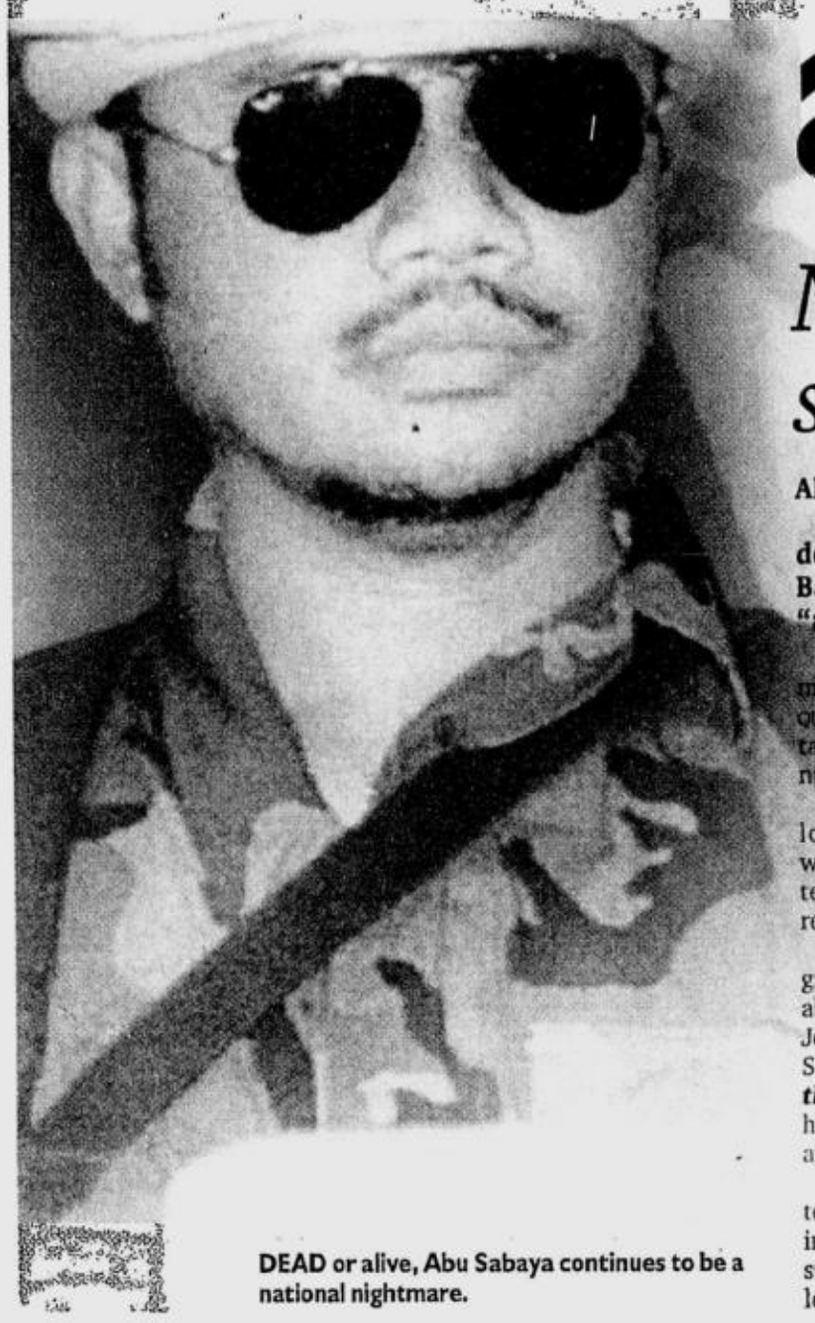
IF TEXT messages were to be believed actress Vilma Santos would have been dead not once but several times.

On Wednesday,

VI/A18

Friday, August 23, 2002 ★★ 60 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 256 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Abu Sabaya still alive, says priest



DEAD or alive, Abu Sabaya continues to be a national nightmare.

Nacorda claims sightings in Basilan

ABU SABAYA is alive.

He was sighted a day after Malacañang trumpeted his demise in June throwing a party in Tuburan municipality in Basilan province. He had good reason to celebrate: He is "alive and the group is intact."

Fr. Cirilo Nacorda yesterday made this disclosure to the INQUIRER before he spoke at the Rotary Club of Manila in the Manila Hotel.

During the open forum following his speech, Nacorda, who's the parish priest of St. Peter Parish in Lamitan, Basilan, repeated that Sabaya was alive.

Nacorda said that Sabaya's group was "possibly" behind the abduction of six members of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Patikul, Sulu, on Tuesday***(Story on this page)*** as the bandit group had allegedly planned their next attack in the last week of June.

The priest said that the pattern of the Abu Sayyaf attacks indicated that they would soon strike again after the Americans left, adding that the latest attack came after a period of "rest" for the bandits.

"There is no malice in this. I am simply telling the truth, which is what I have heard. I trust (the source). We have been helping each other for a long time," said Nacorda who was born in Lamitan.

Sabaya, whose real name is Aldam Tilao, was last seen two weeks ago somewhere in Maluso in Basilan. He has not been sighted since, Nacorda said.

The Southern Command had reported that Sabaya was killed on June 21 after US-trained Filipino soldiers clashed with seven armed men on board a speedboat off the coast of Sibuco town, Zamboanga del Norte.

ABU/A18

MANDY NAVASERO

FR. CIRILO NACORDA: No malice in what I'm saying. I'm simply telling the truth.

Malacañang keeps mum on abduction of Witnesses

By Carlito Pablo and TJ Burgonio

KIDNAPPING cases have been cut in half in the first seven months of the year, the Philippine National Police said yesterday. But the good news did not set Malacañang, apparently embarrassed by Wednesday's kidnapping spree by the Abu Sayyaf, crowing.

"Of course, the President is very concerned about the safety of the hostages," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday. "Just like any decent Filipino, we all condemn the atrocities committed by this group."

But aside from this general denunciation, Bunye declined to provide categorical answers to reporters' queries about the kid-

MALACAÑANG/A18

Heads of 2 hostages displayed in public market

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Why? Why them? What wrong had they done?

No one could provide answers to 73-year-old Connie Kaadlawon's questions after she learned that the Abu Sayyaf had beheaded her 21-year-old nephew, Lemuel Mantulo, and his companion, Lionel Mantic.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the 104th Army Brigade, yesterday reported that the heads of Mantulo and Mantic had been found on fruit stalls at the Alat public market in Jolo, Sulu.

Two Abu Sayyaf gunmen on Tuesday seized Mantulo (earlier identified as Bantolo), Mantic and four women in Patikul town, a few kilometers outside Jolo. All six were members of Jehovah's Witnesses, an international Christian group.

Mantulo's head was found at 6 a.m. Thursday inside a black garbage bag with a note that read, "It's a war against infidels and non-believers of Islam."

Mantic's head, in a black cloth bag, was recovered about 100 meters away eight hours earlier.

"Savagely done," Tolentino said of Mantulo's beheading.

HEADS/A18

Violence, deficit send peso to 8-month low

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO fell yesterday to an eight-month low on worries over the government's fiscal health and renewed extremist violence in Mindanao. Stocks also closed lower.

The local currency, which had been subdued at a 52.05-13 range before news that the government had breached its budget deficit target in July, slipped to 52.15, an eight-month low also hit on Tuesday.

"The numbers were expected and even the response from the government was also within expectations. The market is basically clueless at the moment," a dealer at a European bank in

VIOLENCE/A17

Jehovah's Witnesses preaches from house to house

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

(Editor's Note: The writer is an active member of the English Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses in Baguio City.)

WHAT is the Jehovah's Witnesses all about? Is it a sect or a cult or a fundamentalist Christian group?

Some define sect to mean a group that has broken away from an established religion. Others apply the term to a group that follows a particular human leader or teacher. Jehovah's Witnesses is not an offshoot of any church but include persons from all walks of life and from many religious backgrounds. We are actually a worldwide Christian society of people who actively bear witness regarding Jehovah God and his purposes affecting mankind.

There are more than 6 million active Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide who are doing voluntary work in 235 countries.

We base our beliefs not on human tradition or philosophy, but on the Holy Bible. We do not look to any human leader, but to Jesus Christ alone.

Religious fundamentalism is usually an attempt to preserve what is believed to be the origi-

JEHOVAH'S/A4

Kidnap gives GMA excuse for US troops here

WEDNESDAY'S kidnapping will give the President the excuse to justify an extended stay for elite American troops in the country, analysts said yesterday.

"This is sort of a blessing for the government," said Renato Cruz de Castro, associate professor of political science at De La Salle University in Manila.

In Congress, the chair of the House defense committee drew an explicit connection between the recently concluded RP-US Balikatan 02-1 counter-terrorism exercise in Basilan and the most recent kidnapping.

"We are saddened that (this happened) despite the Balikatan. Had Sulu been included, we would not have experienced these new abductions," said Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay.

De Castro said, "Now this new kidnapping by the Abu Sayyaf will be a good opportunity for the (Armed Forces of the Philippines) to justify upcoming joint exercises with the US."

Karen Kelley, spokesperson for the US Embassy in Manila, said talks were going on between the two governments about launching a second phase of joint operations in October.

"We remain in close consultation with the Philippine government on the next step of the counter-terrorism cooperation," she said.

Defense officials had earlier hoped the second phase of the

KIDNAP/A18

GMA wants SSS head to be next BIR chief

By Clarissa S. Batino

TO JUMP from one hot seat to another. That is what President Macapagal-Arroyo and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho are asking of Social Security System president Corazon dela Paz, when they requested her to become the next commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Well-placed sources said Dela Paz was the first choice of Malacañang, and that the President and Camacho were trying hard to convince her to move to the BIR after she restored stability to the state-owned pension fund a year ago.

GMA/A19

DE LA PAZ: From one hot seat to another

DE JESUS: GMA's original choice

FEU president offered DepEd post—Palace source

By Carlito Pablo

RIGHT after Edsa II, the original choice of President Macapagal-Arroyo to head the Department of Education (DepEd) is now being offered the position.

Edilberto de Jesus, the president of Far Eastern University, has been offered the post vacated by Raul Roco, according to a Malacañang source.

De Jesus was scheduled to meet President Macapagal in Malacañang yesterday to discuss his appointment to the DepEd, the source said.

He is the husband of Melinda Quintos de Jesus, publisher of the Philippine Journalism Review and executive director of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility.

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, the

FEU/A17

Lawmakers mad at Gloria, JDV over 'pork shortage'

By Juliet L. Javellana

MEMBERS of the House of Representatives are up in arms against President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. over the withholding of their pork barrel, a source of kickbacks and funds for reelection.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has not released the remaining half of the pork barrel for this year because of the huge budget deficit, which already reached P133 billion as of July, exceeding the ceiling for the whole year by P3 billion.

The House is abuzz with talks that disenchanted representatives want to oust the Speaker because of his failure to effect the timely release of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), a pork barrel worth P35 million for each congressman. Besides the PDAF, a member of the House is allowed to identify a minimum of P35 million worth of public works projects.

Pork barrel refers to money from the national budget that finances projects identified by legislators. As much as 60 percent of the budget for an infrastructure project is lost to corruption, according to a senator.

Congressmen are raring for a showdown with De Venecia in a caucus scheduled for Monday to discuss what San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said was a "cry from the heart of congressmen."

The minority aired the suspicion that the President could use the budget crisis as a political

LAWMAKERS/A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/23/02

Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Bagulo	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Relax, Satur told on gun rap

By C. V. Esguerra and C. O. Avendaño

"RELAX, Satur. I won't persecute you."

The Makati judge who revived the 13-year-old firearms charge against party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo and his wife, Carolina Malay, yesterday assured the former the revival had nothing to do with the government's renewed offensive against communist rebels.

Ocampo and Malay are set to appear at 9 this morning before Judge Rebecca Mariano to be arraigned in connection with the illegal possession of firearms charge filed against them in 1989.

The judge said she revived the case last March, long before President Macapagal-Arroyo launched a crackdown on armed forces from the Left. Ocampo was former spokesman of the National Democratic Front, the umbrella organization of most leftist groups.

"Militant groups are insinuating there's politics here. . .but nobody (from the government) talked to me about this," Mariano told the INQUIRER.

"I revived the case so I could acquire jurisdiction over it. It's up to the prosecution to proceed with it," she said.

But Justice Secretary Hernando Perez assured Ocampo last Wednesday government prosecutors saw no basis for proceeding with the case.

He said the prosecutors would not object to the motion to dismiss the case he plans to file today at the couple's arraignment.

DPWH car repair scam: 'Shocking'

By Rocky Nazareno

THE PURCHASE of automobile seat covers and lighters was listed as emergency repairs; five spare tires were purchased for just one car; one vehicle had its front and rear windshields replaced three times in two months; another car had its fuel pump replaced three times between June and December 2001.

These were just a few of the ways Department of Public Works and Highways motor pool officials and employees skimmed off some P139 million in an alleged vehicle repair scam, DPWH consultant Irene Ofilada told a Senate investigation yesterday.

"Shocking" was how Ofilada described the "more than 7,000 anomalous cases" involving the repair and servicing of vehicles at the DPWH in just one year.

Ofilada, DPWH director for internal audit until her retirement last June, testified that under government accounting standards, a request for spare parts and repairs should originate with the end-user (vehicle owner), who takes the request form through a 13-step process before this is approved.

But under the repair scam, the request came from DPWH motor pool section chief Maximo Borje, she said.

After Borje issued the request, Florendo Arias, assistant director of the DPWH Bureau of Equipment, would approve the RSE (Request for Spare Parts and Equipment), she added.

Borje would then purportedly purchase the spare parts, then request reimbursement.

"(Borje) acted as the end-user and the payee to the vouchers," Ofilada said.

Arias was not at the Senate hearing, but Borje was and underwent intense grilling from public works committee vice chair Robert Jaworski.

When asked why he signed as the end-user in the RSEs, a visibly rattled Borje could only say: "*Di maiwasan, mabait sila sa akin, mabait din ako sa kanila* (It could not be helped, they were good to me, so I was good to them)."

Jaworski then asked why his section did not have the records of the allegedly anomalous transactions.

Borje replied that he was no longer in the motoring section but had been reassigned to the spare parts department.

Irked at his evasive answer, Jaworski told Borje: "You must be thinking that I am just a basketball player. But I am now a senator and it is my mandate from millions of Filipinos to look into people like you who are trying to hide something."

After the hearing, Senate committee on public works chair Ramon Revilla, speaking in a hoarse whisper because of recent spinal surgery, approached Borje with a warning: "*Mag-ingat ka* (Watch out), I will take you down."

Later, Revilla admitted the DPWH had given him a Mitsubishi Pajero in 1997 to serve as his service vehicle.

He said he used the vehicle to inspect far-flung DPWH projects, in his capacity as public works committee chair.

"But I did not charge maintenance or gasoline costs to the DPWH. It is now an old vehicle," he added.

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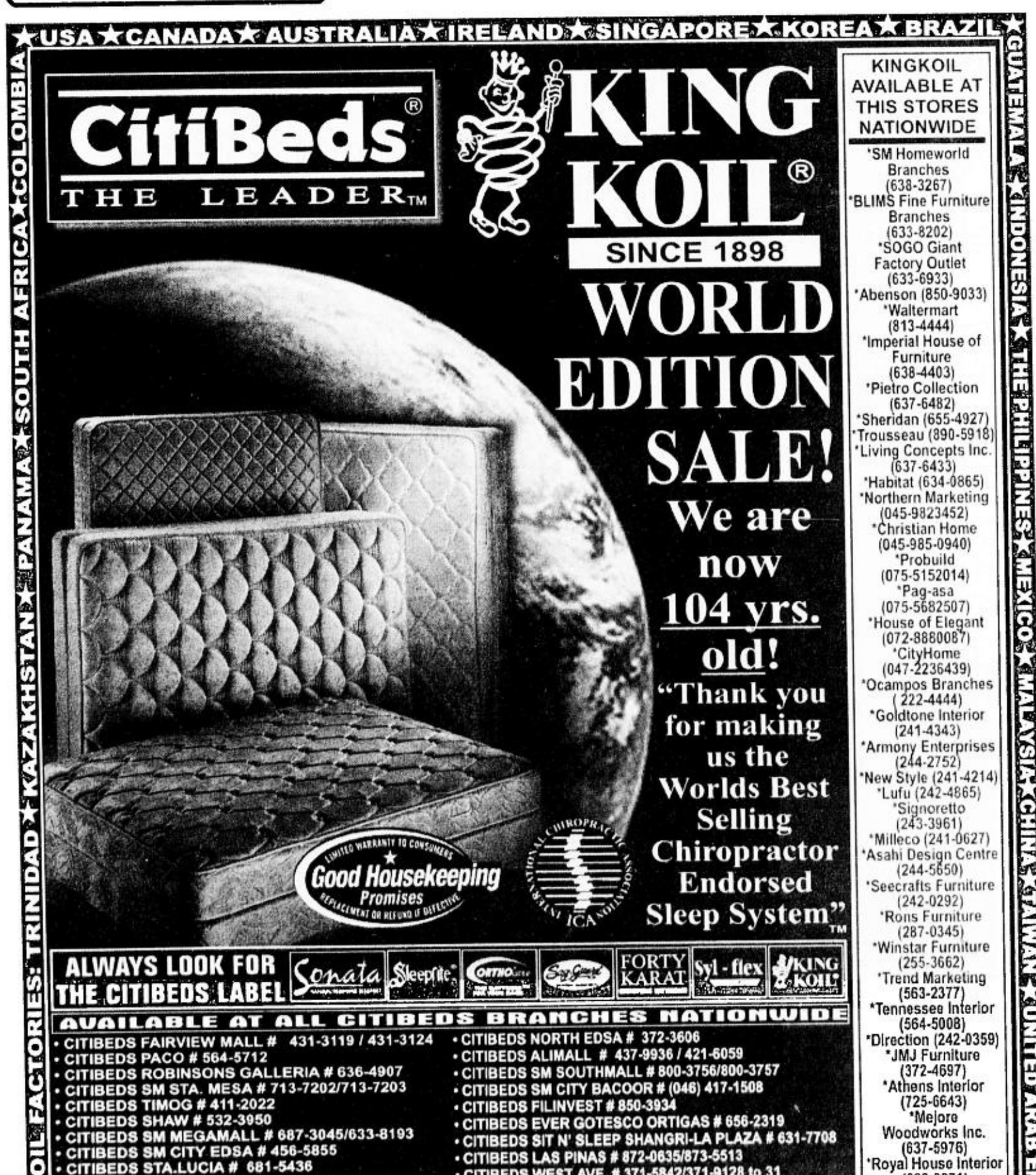

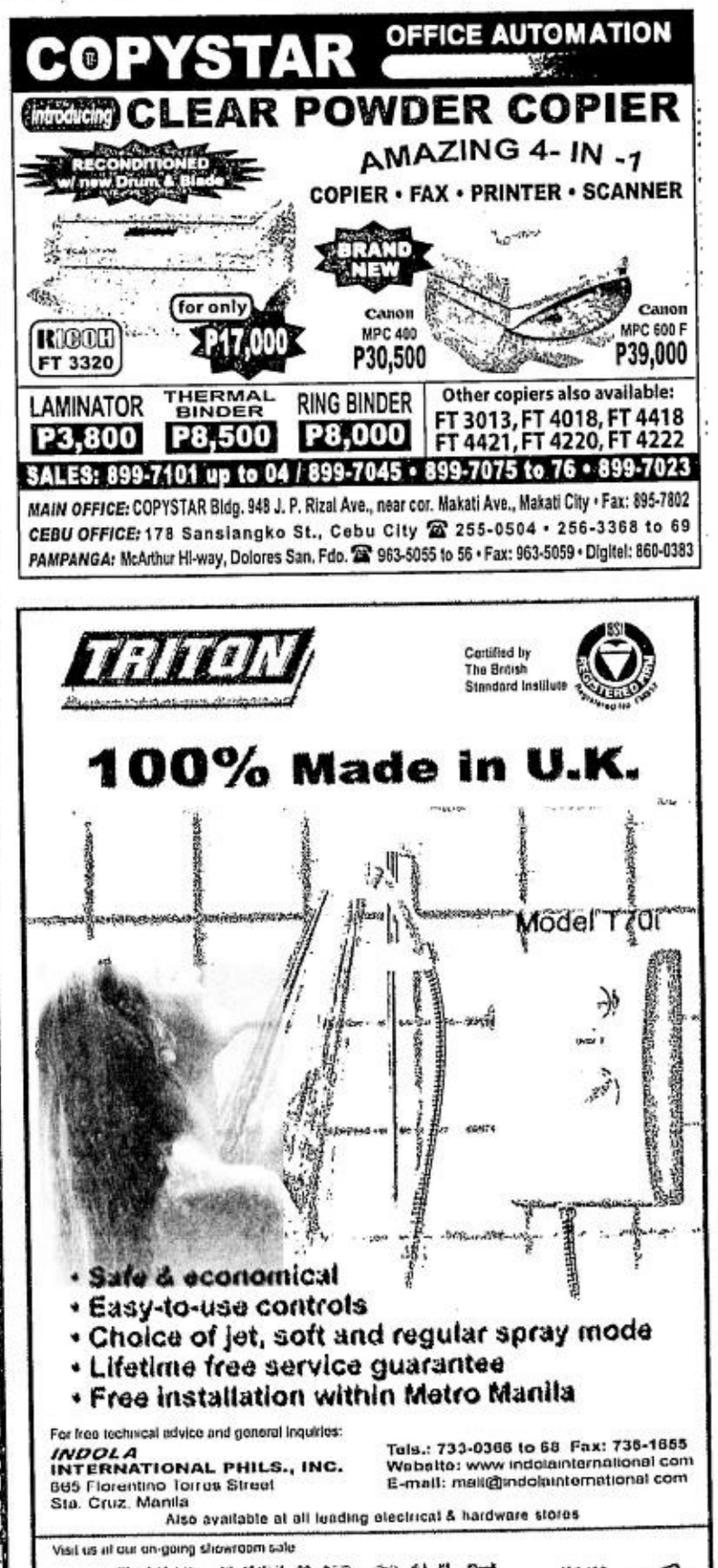

Hard-hitting San Pablo journalist shot dead

SAN PABLO CITY—A hard-hitting television and print journalist here was shot dead by still unidentified assassins early morning yesterday.

Sketchy reports said Sonny Alcantara, about 50, publisher-owner and columnist of Kokus newsweekly and a program host of local Celestron Cable Television, was shot dead at close range in his residence.

He was brought by responding residents to the local community hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival.

Alcantara sustained one bullet wound in the head.

Police operatives were still investigating the incident as of press time.

Nelson Cornista, publisher of Monday Mail weekly and a close friend of the victim, said he and media colleagues were still happily talking with Alcantara the night before he was slain.

"He was a good man and a crusading journalist. He was a vocal critic of political leaders involved in anomalies," Cornista said.

He added that Alcantara might have been killed by someone offended by his hard-hitting columns and statements.

Cornista also disclosed the possibility that a gunman was hired to finish him off. Nearly 40 journalists have been killed as a result of their work since 1986.

Alcantara is survived by his widow Annie Amante, also a columnist and four children. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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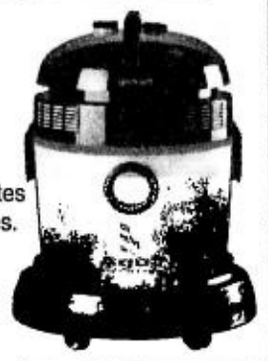

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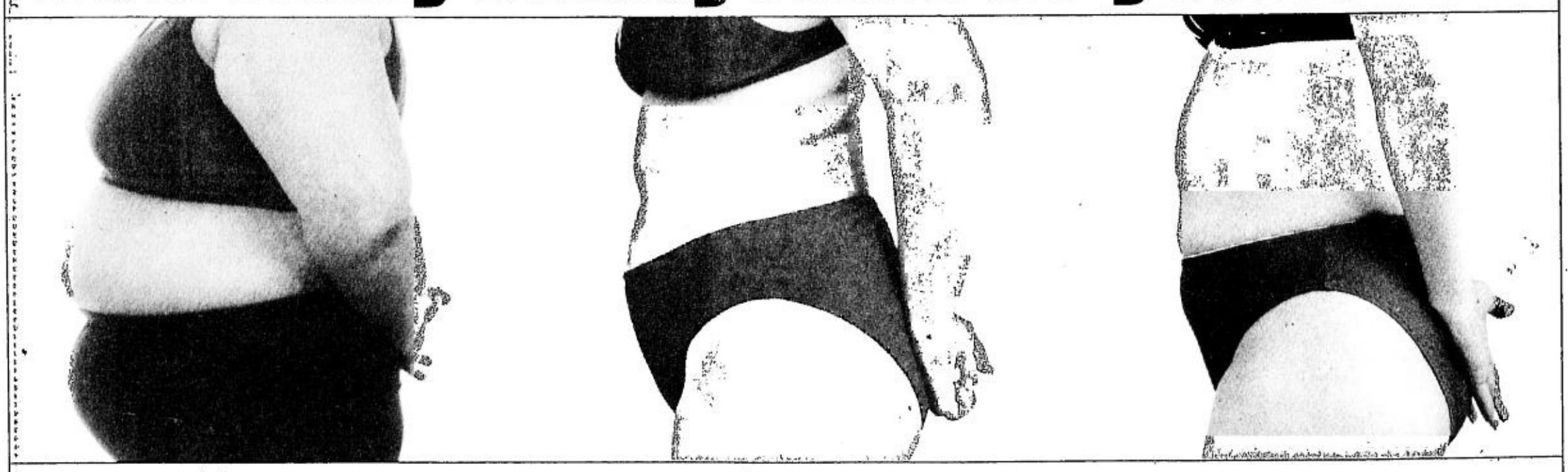

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Lawmakers mad at Gloria, JDV over 'pork shortage'

From page A1

tool to withhold funds for projects of her political foes.

But allies of the President in the House said the worsening budget deficit and Malacañang's plan to withhold funds across the board could spell her defeat in 2004.

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras of Lakas said many House members were disenchanted that the DBM withheld the release of funding for congressional projects already covered with Special Allotment Release Orders and Notice of Cash Allocations.

Political survival

Paras, chair of the House transportation committee, said the non-release was particularly painful for first-termers because they were under pressure to deliver infrastructure and other projects for their districts.

"In the end this is political survival for most of us," Paras said.

Zamora, a veteran politician and executive secretary of ousted President Joseph Estrada, noted that majority of the incumbent legislators had slim margins of 5,000 votes over their rivals in the 2001 elections.

Zamora said these legislators could lose if they failed to deliver projects to their constituents.

"We are worried because no money is being released for the projects that are demanded by our people," Paras added.

Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama said he had been doing the rounds of barangays in his district to explain the delay in the release of funds for their projects.

Villarama said it was already the third quarter but only the first tranche of the funds had been released.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., chair of the appropriations committee, summed up the House sentiment to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin when she submitted the budget to the House on Wednesday. "A strong republic needs a strong legislature," Andaya said.

Paras said there were moves in the House to oust De Venecia but he stressed that he remained supportive of him.

"I also sympathize with my colleagues who are disenchanted that the Speaker was unable to do anything (about the funds) when he is aligned with the President," Paras said.

He noted that former Speakers Manuel Villar and Arnulfo Fuentebella were able to ensure the timely release of the funds during their terms.

"So this disenchantment can ripen into (the election) of a new Speaker," Paras said, adding there were already names being mentioned.

But Paras said it may be unfair to blame De Venecia for the problem because it was Malacañang that holds the money.

The government is finding itself between the devil and the deep blue sea because there is no way for it to keep the P130-billion budget deficit target before the year is over, according to Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, vice chair of the House ways and means and appropriations committee.

Unmanageable

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico of the minority said Malacañang's plan to declare a "state of unmanageable national budget deficit" would empower the President to reduce or withhold the budget of the entire bureaucracy, including the P129 billion in Internal Revenue Allocation (IRA) for local governments.

Under Sec. 63 of the budget law, the budget can be retained or reduced only when there is an unmanageable budget deficit. When this happens, the congressional power of the purse is set aside and the President can do whatever she wants with the budget.

"It will spell her doom in 2004 because if she impounds the IRA, the local governments will revolt against her," Suplico said.

Paras share Suplico's assessment. He said the looming budget crisis arising from a severe revenue shortfall could jeopardize the President's chances in 2004.

"This will probably have an effect on the presidential elections because if there is an alternative leader who has better ideas for improving the economy, that leader will be a strong contender," Paras said.

The opposition is more worried about whether the President will declare a budget crisis.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said a declaration of an unmanageable budget deficit by Ms Macapagal would allow her to disregard the priorities set by Congress. "She can use this as a political tool against the opposition," he said.

Suplico said the President could release funds selectively.

"Those in the opposition will be targeted for persecution and the funds intended for our districts will not be given," he said.

Jehovah's Witnesses preaches from house to house

From page A1

nal traditions or religious beliefs of a culture and to oppose what is perceived as the secular spirit of the world. That is not to say that fundamentalists oppose all that is modern. Some use modern communication devices very effectively to promote their point of view. Are Jehovah's Witnesses fundamentalists? No. While we have strong religious convictions, we are not fundamentalists in the sense that the term has come to be used. We do not resort to demonstrations and violence against those with whom we disagree but we imitate our leader, Jesus Christ.

In yesterday's report on the abduction of six Jehovah's Witnesses in Patikul, Sulu, a military official was quoted as saying that the six Witnesses were selling Avon products "merely as a come-on to would-be converts." This is not true. Although we have our respective sources of livelihood, we do not use any commercial means to attract people into our organization. We go preaching from house to house solely because of our deep love for God and our neighbors. We are international volunteers who zealously share the Bible message with all the people, regardless of their background, race, social or economic status.

We are not paid to personally visit the people. We use our own money, resources, energy and time in compliance with what the Bible says that "the good news has to be preached to all people." (Matthew 24:14; 28:19, 20).

Our preaching work is financed through voluntary contributions. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, a legal religious corporation that is used by Jehovah's Witnesses, was incorporated in 1884 in accordance with the Nonprofit Corporation Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, USA. Thus, by law it cannot be, and it is not, a profit-making enterprise.

Politically neutral

We are also politically neutral. A lot of politicians may hate us because we don't vote during elections. We do not support any particular political candidate or party. We are not involved in political issues and activities because we adhere to what the Bible says that true Christians are "no part of this world (John 17:16)."

We are deeply saddened by the abduction of our fellow Witnesses. We, however, expect such violence and wickedness to happen "in this last days hard to deal with" as prophesied in the Bible. But we continue to pray that the abducted Witnesses would have the strength to endure and keep their integrity in God.

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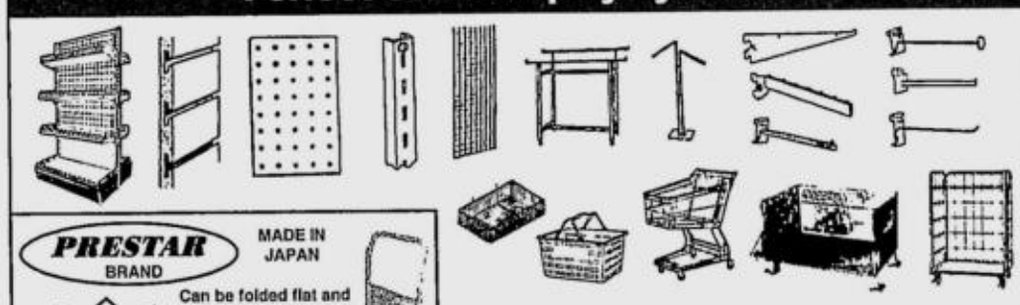

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KL rebuffs Ople on RP 'illegals'

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia—Malaysia will not soften its crackdown on illegal immigrants despite a request from the Philippines to allow thousands of its citizens more time to escape strict new laws, Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said Thursday.

However Filipinos caught out when an amnesty deadline expired who were legitimately trying to leave Malaysia would be granted some leniency, he said.

Syed Hamid held talks Thursday with visiting Philippines Foreign Secretary Blas Ople about thousands of illegal Filipino immigrants on Malaysia's part of Borneo island.

Since Aug. 1, authorities have been enforcing new laws that allow whipping, imprisonment and large fines for illegal foreign workers in wealthy Malaysia, which has become a magnet for migrants from poorer neighboring countries.

Ople said the Philippines did not object to the laws, but asked that Filipinos who were trying to leave Malaysia's Borneo state of Sabah be given more time, Syed Hamid said.

Syed Hamid said he told Ople that Malaysia would not give amnesty to Filipinos caught working illegally in Malaysia, but Filipinos who were trying to leave would be given time to get their paperwork in order.

"We told him that our actions are based on law and we will not act unjustly against anyone," Syed Hamid told reporters after meeting Ople. "It is all done within our sovereignty and independence rights."

Some 60,000 Filipinos and dependents have returned from Malaysia so far this year and another 4,000 or so are awaiting deportation, the Philippines Foreign Affairs Department has said.

About 180,000 Filipinos, including dependents, were estimated to be in Malaysia's Sabah state illegally.

Many of the immigrants are Muslims who fled to Sabah from violence and wrenching poverty in the southern Philippines—a resource-rich region wracked by successive Muslim separatist rebellions.

Before the crackdown, officials estimated up to 600,000 people formed a labor black market in Malaysia, one of Southeast Asia's richest countries, working mostly in low-paying menial jobs.

Indonesian government officials and human rights groups have criticized the tough laws which Malaysia says are necessary for its security. ***AP***

Gloria bound for Europe with one of 'leanest' teams ever

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will have one of her leanest ever delegation when she travels to Europe in September.

This is because the financial pinch brought about by the runaway budget deficit is starting to be felt at the very top of government.

"Compared to the previous travels, this (European trip) of the President will be one of the leanest," Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said in a radio interview.

Ms Macapagal is leaving next month for Spain, Italy and Denmark.

The government is tightening its belt as expenditures have far outstripped revenue collections this year, with the deficit running to P119 billion as of June.

Economic managers have earlier set a P130-billion budget deficit target this year.

In the same radio interview, Boncodin said President Macapagal is "pruning" down the number of delegates who will accompany her to Europe to cut down costs.

Boncodin also said that in a previous meeting, the President had issued verbal instructions for government officials to limit their foreign travels to those absolutely necessary.

ERRATUM

We regretfully inform the public that the item, **NESVITA Cereal Drink, 30g./ 10's, in Apple Cinnamon, Original & Sweet Corn** flavors that was featured in SM Supermarket's TLC Stormy Sale ad for August 16 to 29, is out of stock. Our apologies.

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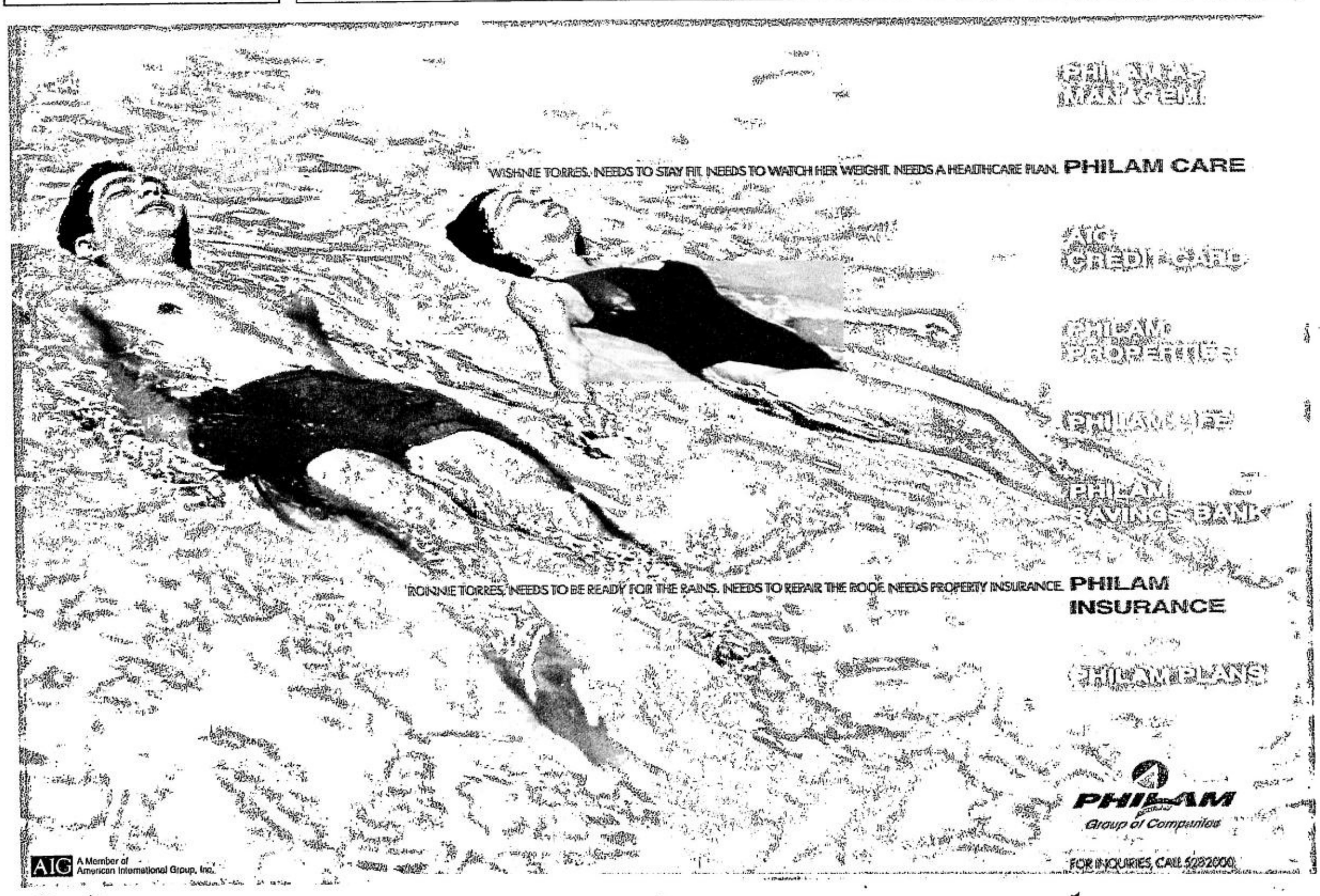

Solon wants executions halted while death penalty bill hangs

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has been urged to declare a moratorium on executions of convicts until Congress acts on the bills calling for the repeal of the death penalty law.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, who chairs the House committee on civil, political and human rights, said yesterday that she has written the President to make the appeal.

Executions of convicts are set to resume on Aug. 30 but Congress is taking up a bill abolishing the death penalty.

An increasing number of legislators are now favoring the abolition of Rep. Act #37659 or the death penalty law.

There are now 100 congressmen supporting a bill to abolish the imposition of capital punishment in the country, she said in a phone interview.

The bill, which was already reported out by the House committees on human rights and revision of laws, is now up for plenary debates.

In the Senate, she said 15 out of the 23 senators support the abolition of the death penalty.

"We see the imminent passage of the bill into law, giving the rising tide of legislative sentiment for the abolition of capital punishment," Rosales said in a statement she issued yesterday.

In a phone interview, Rosales said she made the appeal with the hope that the executive branch would extend some courtesy to the legislature.

In her statement, Rosales said 23 executions are to be implemented from Aug.30 to January 8 next year.

First to be executed at the end of the month is Rolando Padawayon, a convicted rapist.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 23, 2002
20th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Ezk 37:1-14
Gospel: Mt 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard how Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. One of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to test him with this question, "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered, *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.* This is the first and the most important of the commandments. But after this there is another one very similar to it: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* The whole Law and the Prophets are founded on these two commandments."

Commentary

Jesus is truly formidable. Nobody can stand his word that cuts like a two-edged sword. Having silenced the powerful Sadducees, he now stands the test of the popular Pharisees, many of whom in their overzealous piety tended to lose the balance of priorities between what is essential and what is superfluous. Jesus brings them to that which cannot be taken for granted: the great commandment or Shema, which every devout Jew makes a confession of in the morning and in the evening. It is a constant reminder of the covenant once made between God and God's people. But the relationship with God is concretized in the acts of justice due to one another as a covenantal people. Thus, the inseparability of God's love from that of love for one's neighbor. All the other precepts are simply expressions of this two-pronged commandment. Is our observance of God's commands mainly concerned with the external observances rather than with their core essence—the Covenant?

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

MERCANTILE/COMMERCIAL LAW (CORPORATION LAW)-Corporate powers exercised by the Board of Directors-Section 23 of the Corporation Code expressly provides that the corporate powers of all corporations shall be exercised by the Board of Directors. Just as a natural person may authorize another to do certain acts in his behalf, so may the board of directors of a corporation validly delegate some of its functions to individual officers or agents appointed by it. Thus, contracts or acts of a corporation must be made either by the board of directors or by a corporate agent duly authorized by the board. Absent such valid delegation/authorization, the rule is that the declarations of an individual director relating to the affairs of the corporation, but not in the course of, or connected with, the performance of authorized duties of such director, are held not binding on the corporation. In the instant case, it is undisputed that respondent has no written authority from the board of directors of respondent to sell or to negotiate the sale of the lot, much less to appoint other persons for the same purpose. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, AF Realty and Development Corporation, Inc. v. Dieselman Freight Services, Co., G. R. No. 111448, January 16, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

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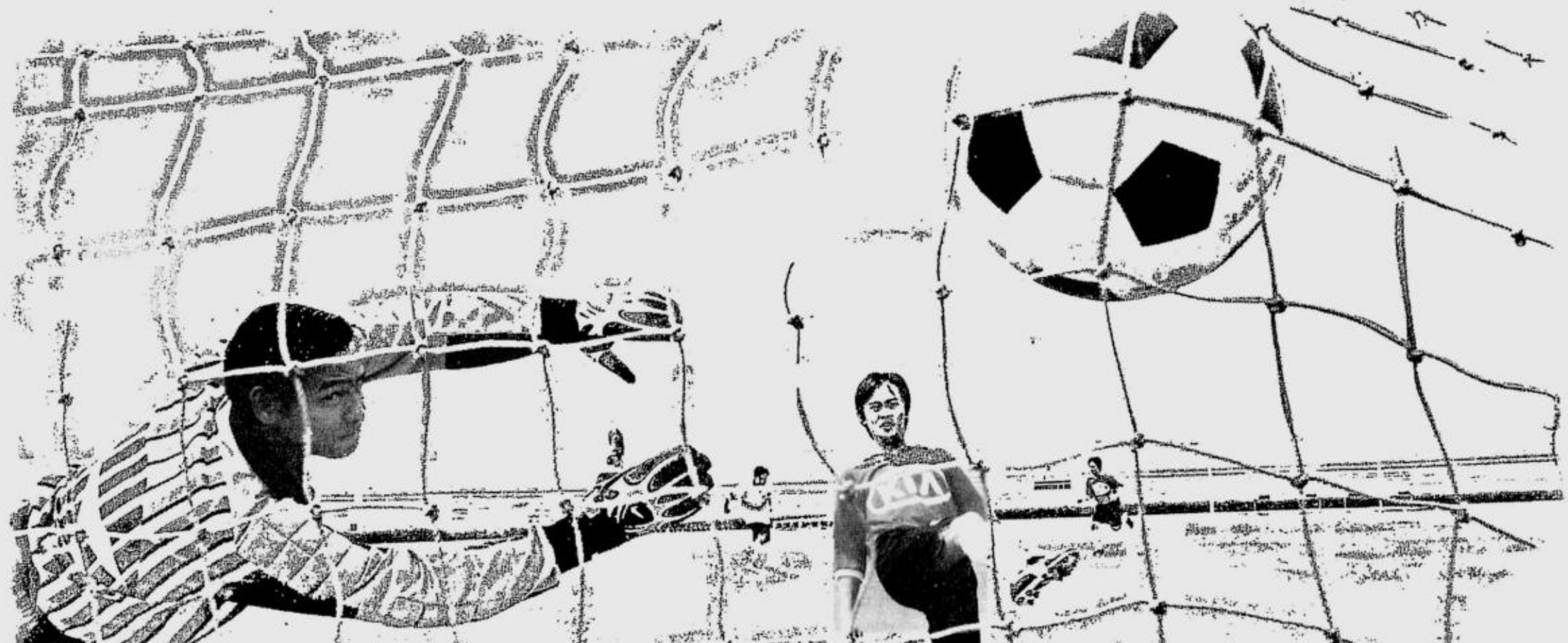

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Defectors arrive in Seoul from RP

SEOUL, South Korea—Two North Korean defectors who sought asylum at the Albanian Embassy in Beijing arrived in South Korea on Thursday after flying via the Philippines, an official said.

The men flew to Incheon International Airport west of Seoul aboard an Asiana Airlines flight from Manila, said an airport official who requested anonymity. Government officials took them away for debriefing.

The men, who say they are brothers, had lived in the northeastern Chinese province of Jilin for the past four years and worked as farmers, according to Kujtim Xhani, Albania's ambassador to Beijing.

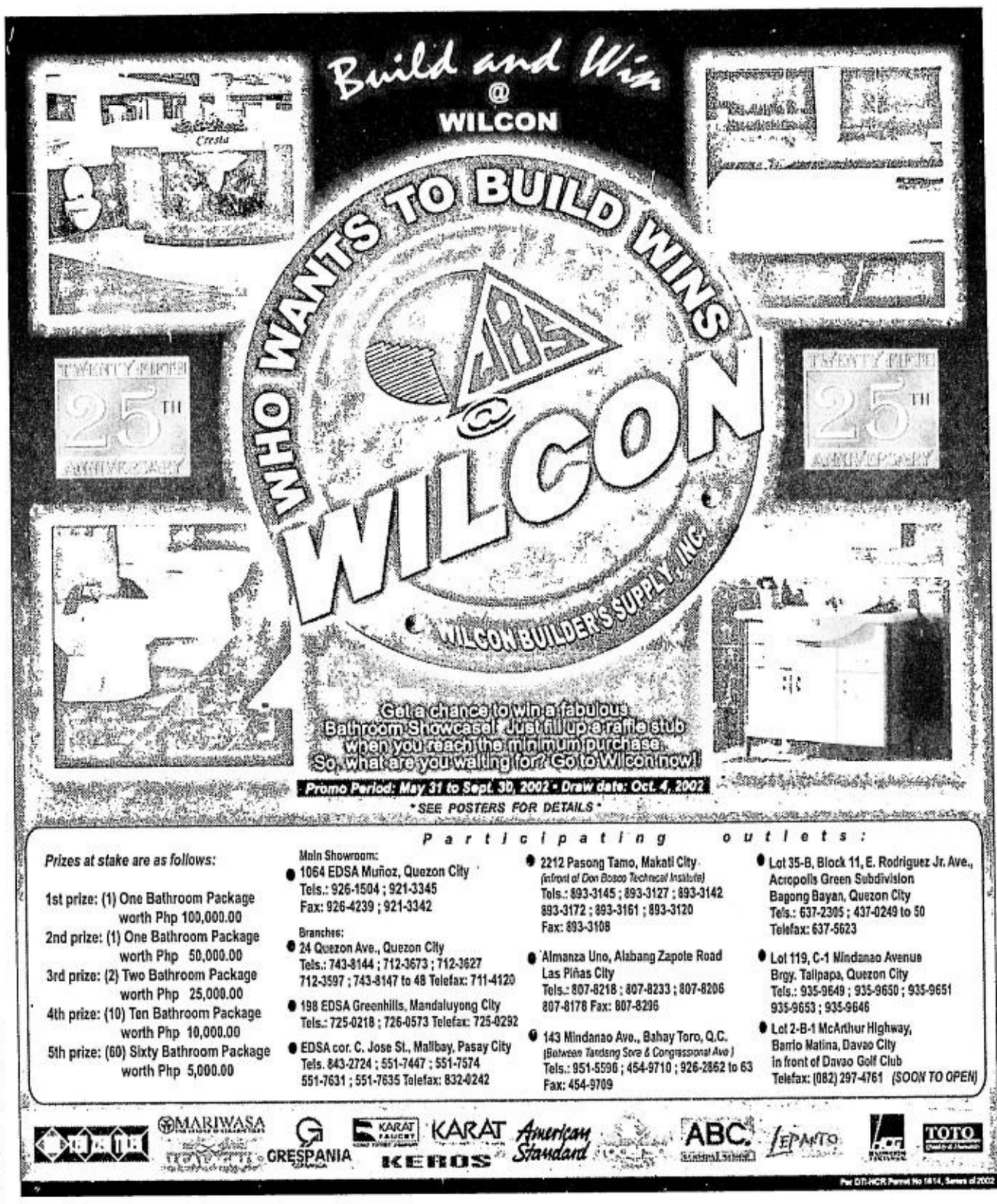
Philippine officials identified them as Lee Soo Chul, 26, and Lee Soo Hyuk, 22.

The two men scaled the embassy fence on Aug.13, saying they wanted to go to South Korea.

Previous asylum-seekers have said they were fleeing hunger or political repression.

The situation poses a problem for China, which is required by treaty to send home asylum seekers from North Korea.

But Chinese authorities have not followed that treaty in cases that have become public, possibly for fear of provoking an outcry abroad. Human rights activists allege that defectors who are returned to North Korea face imprisonment and torture. *AP*



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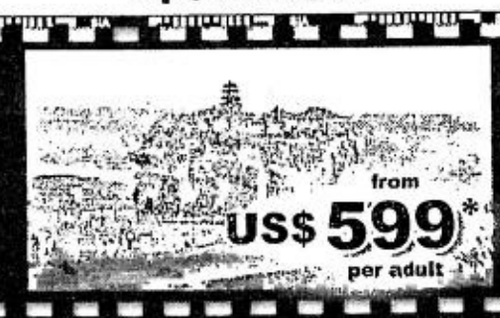

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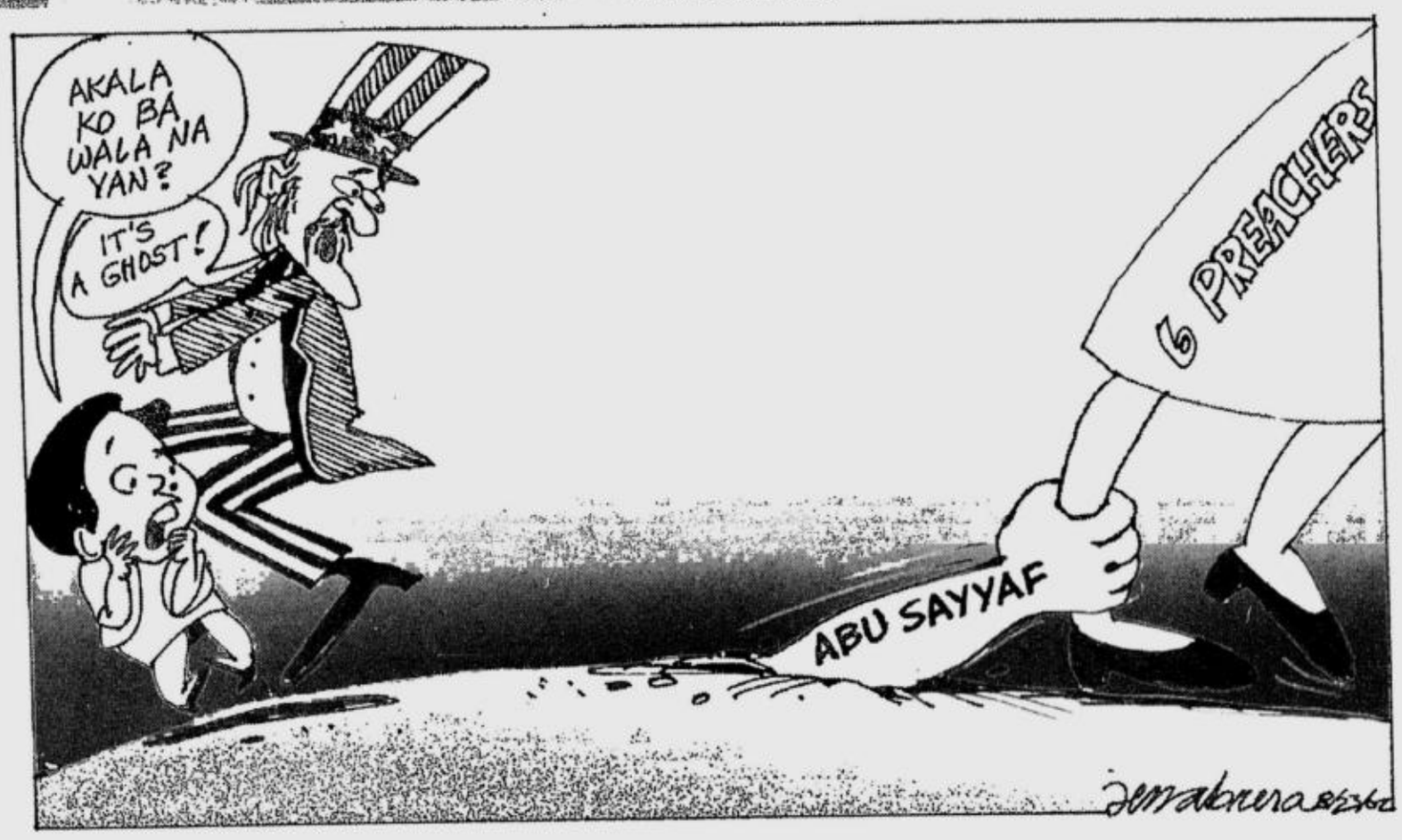


Deadly comeback

EDITORIAL

THEY are back, and they are as cruel and as bloodthirsty as ever. Three weeks after the Macapagal administration claimed to have delivered a crippling blow to the Abu Sayyaf, the bandits masquerading as Islamic fundamentalist freedom fighters struck again. On Tuesday, two members of the group stopped a vehicle being used by members of the religious group, Jehovah's Witnesses, in Patikul, Sulu, and took hostage six of the passengers. Two days later, the heads of the two male hostages were found wrapped in plastic in the public market of the provincial capital Jolo.

There has been no word yet from the kidnappers, so everyone is free to speculate about what they want this time. Unlike in the two previous capers that gained them international notoriety, the bandits apparently were not thinking primarily of money. Patikul is not a place that rich Filipinos or foreign tourists visit like the Sipadan resort in Malaysia or the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Southern Command, said the Abu Sayyaf could be planning to use the new hostages as human shields to foil an ongoing military operation to rescue three Indonesian seamen kidnapped by pirates in June. If so, why did they cut their shield by a third by killing two of the six?

Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, who is based in Sulu, had a more plausible theory. The Abu Sayyaf, he said, has launched a "crusade" to drive away Christians from their community. And the notes found with the heads tended to confirm this: they denounced the victims as "infidels" and called for a jihad or holy war. Moreover, the six hostages were reported to be carrying Bibles and religious leaflets, indicating that they were proselytizing deep in the heart of a predominantly Muslim territory.

Whatever the reasons for this fresh flare-up of violence and savagery, it is clear that the Abu Sayyaf is far from the spent force government and military officials said it was. At the conclusion of the Balikatan 02-1 exercises, Filipino and American officials toasted themselves for their "victory" over the Abu Sayyaf. President Macapagal-Arroyo and US President George W. Bush agreed that the joint military exercises aimed at sharpening the skills of Filipino soldiers were a model of successful cooperation in combating international terrorism. Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Roy Cimatu, declared that the backbone of the Abu Sayyaf had been broken. Ms Macapagal even announced that troops were being withdrawn from Mindanao to take on the government's older enemy, the communist New People's Army.

Obviously they spoke too soon. The campaign in Basilan and Zamboanga might have silenced forever the loud-mouthed Abu Sayyaf spokesman Abu Sabaya, but its leadership and organization have remained intact, contrary to the government's claims that the apparatus of terror had been dismantled. Its leaders, including four of the five for whose capture the US government has offered a rich reward, are free. So with several others operating in Sulu who were not on the US hit list. If further proof was needed that they retained their capacity to terrorize, the latest hostage-taking and beheadings should be more than enough.

If our soldiers learned anything from their six-month training in counter-terrorism under the Americans, this is the time to show it. But curiously, the initial reaction of the AFP to the latest atrocity was to start an acoustics war.

As early as Tuesday night, government troops were said to have started shelling Abu Sayyaf positions in Patikul. What that is supposed to accomplish other than show that the AFP is doing something, nobody knows. Bombs and cannons didn't pulverize Abu Sabaya or lead to the rescue of American Gracia Burnham. What ended the year-long crisis that started in Dos Palmas was a relentless pursuit and better intelligence.

So why are our troops shelling suspected Abu Sayyaf hideouts instead of going in there and engaging the enemy in face-to-face combat? Do they need US troops looking over their shoulders again before they can summon the will to fight a group whose number has dwindled to not more than 140 men, according to military estimates?

Three weeks after the American troops left, the Abu Sayyaf is back, sowing terror in the countryside. And our troops are back to their old ways.

Napocor overpaid Impsa, says secret report

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE VERY day that this column came out (PDI, 8/20/02) with a report on the mysterious Meritec report, Energy Secretary Vince Perez called a press conference during which he released the second part of the report. And as expected, that second part contained findings that explained why Perez was trying to hide it.

For those who didn't see that column, here is a background. When the press exposed alleged anomalous payments of over $50 million by the National Power Corp. to the Argentine firm Impsa for the rehabilitation of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) power plant complex, the Department of Energy ordered an independent audit to verify the reports. The job was given to Meritec Ltd. Of New Zealand, a world leader in engineering consultancy and power plant design. The fee was $26,500.

Meritec submitted its report last month and Perez issued a statement that Meritec found the payments to Impsa justified.

However, Perez did not touch on many issues reported by the media, among them the allegation that "Napocor paid Impsa more than $50 million for the first 18 months of its operation even if the Argentine company had so far invested only $9 million to rehabilitate the (CBK) plant." Perez was similarly silent on other issues discussed by the series of articles by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ).

And when Sen. Serge Osmeña asked for a *complete* copy of the Meritec report, he was furnished a 15-page document titled "Evaluation of Completion Status of Kalayaan I and II, CBK-BROT Project," purported to be the complete report of Meritec's audit. Osmeña was skeptical that it was the complete report as it did not address certain items in the scope of audit agreed upon by Napocor and Meritec.

The column questioned whether the report submitted to Osmeña—which served as the basis of Perez's claim that the audit found the payments to Impsa "justified"—was the full report. Or whether it is just a part of the report. Is there in fact a second report?

Osmeña asked Perez to confirm whether or not the document furnished him was the complete report. When Perez refused to answer, Osmeña threatened to summon him before a Senate investigation during which he would be questioned under oath. The column said that Perez had nothing to do with the original Impsa contract which he only inherited from the Ramos and Estrada administrations, so why is he hiding it? Is he covering up for somebody? Why doesn't he tell the truth and save his own hide?

Cornered, Perez called the press conference and admitted that there indeed is a Part 2 of the report. The report came in a "first the good news (Part 1), then the bad news (Part II)" package. Perez released only the good news part which justified the payments. He did not release the second part which contained the bad news. Neither did he qualify the document he released as "the first report." It was referred to only as "the Meritec report," giving the impression that it is the complete report. Only when he was cornered did Perez admit there was a second report and released it.

A perusal of the second report showed why Perez was trying to hide it. It contained bad news and confirmed what the media had reported, that Napocor has overpaid Impsa.

Titled, "Evaluation of issues to be raised with the CBK-BROT (build-rehabilitate-operate-transfer) contractor," Part 2 of the Meritec report minced no words. It branded as "out of proportion" the payments Napocor made, and will still make, to Impsa as "capital recovery fees" given the relatively small investments of the Argentine firm in the rehabilitation of the Kalayaan I and II sections of the complex.

We quote direct from the report:

"The total capital recovered in respect to Unit 2 over 24.5 months of operation will amount to some US$50 million. This seems out of proportion when compared with its refurbishment cost of less than US$1 million."

"The total capital recovered in respect to Unit 2 over 16 months of operation will amount to some US$30 million. This seems out of proportion when compared to the refurbishment cost of less than US$8 million."

The report went on to emphasize that the capital recovery fees are "substantially in excess of the capital investments of the contractor."

Meritec recommended that the application of capital recovery fees "be revived and, if appropriate, renegotiated with the BROT contractor."

In underscoring excessive capital recovery fees in relation to Impsa's actual investments, Meritec recommended that the government consider recovering overpayments by applying the excess payments to Impsa's future billings.

Part 2 also questioned certain technical aspects of the CBK rehabilitation project, but we leave that to the engineers and other competent professionals. We focus on the money angle because money, after all, is the root of all evil.

In the DOE press statement, Perez said "the second report was requested to assist in the then ongoing review of IPP (independent power producers) contracts being undertaken by the inter-agency committee."

But why did Perez not reveal its existence and divulge its contents when he issued his first statement on the Meritec report? Why did he wait until the media suspected a Meritec report Part 2 and only then did he admit that "there are (indeed) two Meritec reports"?

Mr. Secretary, you are being naughty.

L'affaire Kris

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I CAN understand why INQ7 is full of irate letters about Kris Aquino. Some of the reasons they cite are perfectly valid.

One of them is that Kris tends toward indulgence. You talk about yourself too much, you're bound to find your foot stuck in your mouth one day. And Kris is not exactly someone who has built stout walls between what she thinks and what she says. Though I myself have found that to be a boon as much as a bane. It makes for spontaneity too, which is the strength of her column and shows. They are bubbly because of it. But the bane of it is more apparent. Her confessions about her love life, or lack of restraint in pouring out the contents of her heart, are easily so.

And true enough, she does tend to go overboard in her utterances, constantly tugging, to put it charitably, at the limits of good taste. Somebody told me recently she caught a phone interview of her by Boy Abunda when she was in the States. Abunda asked her if there was any truth to the rumor she was pregnant. She laughed and said even as they spoke, she was enduring the pangs of the first day of her monthly. She did not put it that delicately.

And I suppose there are obligations that go with being the daughter of a national icon. Unfortunately for Kris, she is not just an ordinary show-biz person, for whom no news can ever be bad news, she carries on her shoulders, bright as neon but heavy as cargo, the Aquino name. There are limits imposed on her by that legacy. She can afford to be the massacre queen, but she cannot afford to be a killer queen. She can afford to be a gossip queen, but she cannot afford to be a gossiped queen. Ain't easy being someone whose amoral preferences take on the aspect of national security, but, well, that was her passport to show biz to begin with.

Having said all this, however, I am amazed by the ferocity of the condemnation of her, or what is probably worse, the ridiculing of her. A text joke says: "The Filipino married man is worth dying for." I was about to write this column the other day, but realized just in time that Wednesday was Aug. 21. No point in beaming subliminal messages without meaning to.

The ferocity of that condemnation, and the unkindness of some of the jokes, in fact also reflect on us too. Indeed, they reflect more on us than on Kris. Here we find a crystal clear example of our differential attitudes to men and women, or the way we see how men and women ought to behave. Except that crystal clear examples are often the least visible to the naked eye.

As flaunting affairs with people, married or not, goes, we do not have any lack of men doing that. Indeed, not just ordinary men but presidents, the most visible figures among us, the people who are supposed to provide a role model to the youth. Erap of course is the most outstanding example there. During his term, he openly and gleefully paraded an entire bevy of mistresses, who were not just content to keep to the sidelines, they vied furiously and publicly with each other for the spoils. I don't recall anybody censuring Erap for maintaining a harem, or consorting with married women. Only Jaime Cardinal Sin did so, and everyone thought him corny. The only thing I heard by way of censure was that Erap's mistresses were greedy, which was bound to cause his downfall.

Fidel Ramos too had Baby Arenas busily drawing attention to herself, which Ramos was powerless to stop. If indeed he thought it worth the trouble. Everyone accepted it with worldly wisdom as a fact of life. There was no flourishing e-mail then yet, but I did not see a spate of letters to the editor angrily assailing Ramos for lack of taste. The bad press went Arenas' way completely, and even then it was pretty much lighthearted fun. There were jokes about the Kabuki Lady, but that was all.

You start from Manuel L. Quezon onwards, and you will not find any lack of presidents, or would-be presidents, who did a great deal of philandering, and who did not particularly mind it being known by the public. Indeed, who probably encouraged the public to talk about it, knowing it was not a badge of dishonor, it was a source of envy. I know taxi drivers used to say, "*Swerte naman ni* Erap, *nasa kanya na lahat.*" The same might have been said before martial law of one Ninoy Aquino.

Male show-biz personalities routinely hop from bed to bed, and leave all sorts of traces behind, and they do not get hate mail for being promiscuous and tasteless, they get fan mail for being ladies' men. Until he converted to Islam, Robin Padilla had the reputation for courting women of all shapes, sizes, and status, including all his leading ladies but not limited to them, which he did little to dispel. Even today I doubt that he will agree to cultivate a new reputation for being a harmless professional. That can do his career a lot of harm. Nobody blamed Dolphy for hooking up with Zsa Zsa Padilla, nobody blamed Rudy Fernandez for hooking up with Lorna Tolentino.

Of course none of them resolutely advertised it in public, which is Kris' real fault. But I seriously doubt the public would have risen to damn them if they did, calling them immoral and tasteless and insatiable, and betrayers of the public trust. More likely, the public would have sympathized with them, men and women shaking their heads philosophically, saying true love drives people to great confessional lengths, declarations of undying love must burst forth from the swollen heart like a flood. More likely, the public would have felt the pangs of love with them, men and women brooding ecstatically, saying true love brooks no obstacle, not age, not time, not the barriers put up by heaven and earth.

I myself feel only like asking Kris, "*Sure ka na ba?*"

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Our political and judicial impotence

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE ASSASSINATION of Benigno Aquino Jr. 19 years ago is probably the political event that has left the strongest impact in the memory of most Filipinos since the Japanese invasion in 1942. For one, it triggered a chain of political upheavals leading to the 1986 People Power "revolution."

Each time Edsa 1 is celebrated, the nation is inevitably led back into memory lane with the reminder that the long fuse of that "revolution" was lit on Aug. 21, 1983. The assassination was kilometer zero, the turning point of a new era of turbulent politics that spawned not only Edsa 1, but Edsa 2 and Edsa 3, as well.

In last Wednesday's commemoration, it was poignant to note that we were no nearer to solving the murder than we were 19 years ago. In that span of time, two trials were held at the Sandiganbayan. The first trial, in the division headed by Justice Manuel Pamaran, ended on Dec. 2, 1985, with the acquittal for murder of eight officers and enlisted men. The case was ordered reopened by the Supreme Court, after a judicial commission found that the acquittal was "rendered by reason of undue pressure by Malacañang."

The amended information, filed during the Aquino presidency, accused 41 persons, mostly soldiers, of the murder of Aquino and Rolando Galman. The information included Gen. Fabian Ver, Marcos' chief of staff of the armed forces and director general of the National Intelligence and Security Authority; Maj. Gen. Prospero A. Olivas, former chief of the Metropolitan Command of the Philippine Constabulary; and Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio, chief of the Aviation Security Command at the airport where Aquino was assassinated. Ver and Olivas were charged as accessories in the conspiracy.

On Sept. 28, 1990, or four years into the Aquino presidency, the Sandiganbayan found 16 military men guilty, including Custodio, and sentenced them to two terms of life imprisonment. It acquitted 20 others, including Olivas and Marcos' tourism minister, Jose Aspiras. Ver could not be presented in court as he had fled the country with Marcos and his retinue in 1986. The 177-page decision came to the "inescapable conclusion" that Constable Rogelio Aquino was the triggerman and confirmed the findings of the Agrava Fact-Finding Board that there was a military conspiracy to murder Aquino.

The decision failed to establish who were behind the conspiracy. That issue has remained unclear up until today. Fifteen soldiers are serving terms in the Muntinlupa national penitentiary. Custodio died of cancer on Jan. 16, 1991, and Ver died on Nov. 21, 1998 in Bangkok. They died keeping their secrets. No one has come up with serious information tracing the authors of the conspiracy, and this remains the central mystery of the murder.

During the Aquino presidency, the case was reopened, but there is no evidence that President Aquino went out of her way to use the resources of the government to go to the bottom of the murder. Clearly, the new government was preoccupied with the dauntless task of rebuilding democracy and was fighting for survival from six coup attempts.

As far as I know, there are at least two books published about the assassination—the Agrava Board Report published in 1984, and Lewis Simons' "Worth Dying For," in 1987. The book has only peripheral references to the assassination and the subsequent trials.

It is in this context that Sen. Aquilino Pimentel has challenged former President Fidel V. Ramos to reveal what he knew about the assassination. Pimentel hit it right on the head when in a privilege speech last Wednesday he said that, "As PC chief, it is impossible for Mr. Ramos not to have known about the planned murder of Ninoy. Or if he did not know the plotters before the act was done, it is impossible for him not to know after it was done."

Ramos, who was chief of military intelligence in the early Marcos years, is presumed not to have lost his interest in what was happening inside the regime. Ramos at the time had fallen out of favor with Marcos and was isolated from Marcos' inner circles. But Ramos, up until today, has maintained his silence.

Another former close associate of Marcos was then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile. Also at that time, Enrile had been excluded from the inner circles of Marcos and was, in fact, being suspected of plotting against him. Enrile has so far kept his mouth sealed. The other possible sources of information are the 15 soldiers serving sentences in Muntinlupa, but are they willing to talk? And if they talk, how much do they know beyond the tasks assigned to them on that fateful day?

The solution of the Aquino murder is a reflection of the ability of the government, its law enforcement agencies, and the judicial system to solve what probably is the most outrageous political murder in the history of post-war Philippine democracy. Not that we have not had political assassinations in the past. The assassination of Andres Bonifacio is a case in point, taking place when the revolution was struggling to overthrow Spanish rule.

If this nation has to come to terms with its past and establish a system of justice that is effective in not only solving political murders but also in sending important and influential people to jail, the Aquino assassination riddle stands as a symbol of our political and judicial impotence.

Sex texts

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AFTER A SIX-WEEK break, "XYZone," which I host and which airs every Saturday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. over dzAR Angel Radyo 1026, returned to live broadcast last June. The first show on this return bout offered a new feature, with listeners able to text in their questions.

Maybe it was the anonymity afforded by texting, or our decision to focus on adolescent sexuality in the first weeks, but the questions came pouring in. Especially when one considers it's about something Filipinos are reputed to by quite shy about: sex. And judging from the most common questions texted our way, it would seem Pinoys are quite clueless about it, too.

In any given show, questions on two "touchy" topics, masturbation and withdrawal, were almost sure to turn up.

James of Marikina, for instance, wanted to know if it was harmful to masturbate every day, if it was true that it could cause one to drastically lose weight, and when exactly masturbation became a health threat.

My guest at that time was Dr. Caloy Calica of DKT Philippines, answered James' concerns: Masturbating every day, even several times a day, has no effect whatsoever on the health of the person. It becomes "unhealthy" only when one becomes so preoccupied with it, he or she can no longer engage in other activities, such as studying, working, or relating with other people.

An anonymous texter, on the other hand, wanted to know if it was true that masturbation would cause a growth spurt. Well, while masturbation has no negative effect, it has no positive effect, either, save perhaps for relieving sexual frustration or tension. And neither does circumcision cause a boy to shoot up. It just so happens that circumcision normally takes place just before a boy reaches his teens, which is often marked by a growth spurt.

* * *

BY THE THIRD or fourth show, I had learned to anticipate at least one question on withdrawal in every broadcast.

Some of the texted-in questions: Will withdrawal protect my girlfriend from pregnancy? Will she get pregnant even if there is only slight penetration and no ejaculation? Does withdrawal have any effect on the health of a man?

The replies, of course, were that withdrawal is not even considered a contraceptive method. Chances are, the woman could still get pregnant even if the man withdraws before ejaculation because soon after penetration (no matter how "slight") a man could expel fluids or pre-ejaculates that already contain some sperm.

But is it unhealthy? Two guests, Dr. James Piad of the Philippine National AIDS Council and Dr. Rene Francia of FriendlyCare, were of the opinion that withdrawal has no adverse effects, save perhaps for frustration. And not just for the man, I hastened to add.

Certainly, though, an unwanted pregnancy would have to be counted as an adverse effect, too.

This led me to wondering just how common a practice withdrawal is in this country. According to demographers, when people tell survey takers that they practice "natural" methods of contraception, they usually mean withdrawal. What a sad thought. All these couples foregoing satisfying sex just to avoid an unwanted pregnancy, but unwittingly putting themselves at risk just the same. Where do all these men get their information about withdrawal, anyway?

* * *

IGNORANCE about sex and reproduction has implications beyond just unwanted pregnancy and frustration.

In a show on sexually transmitted infections, a listener wanted to know if HIV could be transmitted even if it was just the first time she had sex, and even if her partner had withdrawn before ejaculation. "Just as the pre-ejaculates could cause pregnancy, so could they transmit HIV or any other infection if your partner is infected," Dr. Piad replied.

Mondejar of San Juan wanted to know if a sexually transmitted infection could be transmitted even through oral sex. Dr. Calica offered the startling information that he knows of some patients diagnosed with gonorrhea of the throat. In short, an infection is an infection is an infection.

The only form of contraception that also provides protection against infection is the condom. That and abstinence, of course.

So if we can make up a rule on avoiding sexually transmitted infections, it would be: Avoid casual unprotected sex, that is, engaging in sex with partners whose sexual history or behavior you know nothing about. If you have no way of avoiding such a situation, then protect yourself and use a condom.

* * *

IN THE LAST three weeks or so, "XYZone" began asking texters to provide their age along with their first name and address, just so the producers, the Women's Media Circle, could form a profile of our listeners.

To my surprise, many of the callers turned out to be adults, in their 30s and 40s. One would think that by this time in their lives, they would have known all there is to know about sex and reproduction.

And yet there were women calling about the possibility of getting pregnant even while they were breast-feeding (yes there is if your baby is more than six months old or if you're not exclusively breast-feeding), and pregnancy even during the menopausal stage (just a slight possibility, but possible just the same). One woman had been raped when she was 15 and was wondering if she could still get pregnant, now that she was married, since the rape did not result in a pregnancy.

So much fear and shame, and so many questions! Can't we, as couples, as families and as a society, begin to talk to each other more openly about sex?

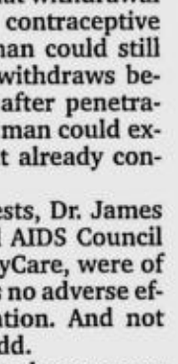
* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Amorsolo sans the sunlight

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



FROM HIS artistic peak in the 1930s to the very end, when his urge to paint was limited by old age, diabetes and cataracts, Fernando Amorsolo (1892-1972) churned out countless scenes of an idyllic period in Philippine history, a forgotten age, before the war, usually referred to as *pistaym* (Peace Time). Through his paintings, Amorsolo shaped the way Filipinos look at art and their world, creating a lost Eden, a pastoral paradise where everyone is eternally young, men robust, women fair-skinned (no need for cosmetic surgery and skin whiteners then), and the harvest always abundant. All the above elements were placed on canvass with his trademark backlighting that captured the fleeting tropical sunlight, thereby creating a visual feast of pure delight.

One wonders what Amorsolo would say about social realism in art, or images of the slums, the salvaged, those forgotten by history and society. Almost everything Amorsolo produced brings cheer to the viewer, be this the everyday Ginebra San Miguel label on a round or *cuatro cantos* bottle or the astronomically priced paintings in museums and private collections that are constantly reproduced on calendars, tourist brochures and art books. The provincial and cheerful in Amorsolo's paintings obscure a small but important part of his work—rarely seen—that documented Manila during the difficult days of the Japanese occupation.

Amorsolo wielded both pen and brush to record history as he saw it unfold before his eyes, producing works so forceful it brings the viewer to remember what he would rather forget. His paintings on the horrors of the war differ from his usual work by the absence of glorious sunlight. Dark hues produce a brooding atmosphere that suggest both destruction and death. The neat, smiling *dalagang bukid* are transformed into disheveled Madonnas sorrowing over the loss of property and loved ones.

I remember two Amorsolos in the National Library that will never hang in many living or dining rooms. One shows the Legislative Building as it was after the war—a heap of ruins. This is hard to imagine today because the building was rebuilt and is now the National Museum. Amorsolo left us with a visual record of its destruction, it looked like a tiered wedding cake that fell off a table. The other painting, if my memory serves me right, shows a woman carrying a child running from the Battle for Manila in 1945. In the Cultural Center of the Philippines there is a painting showing part of Manila burning. An impressive and important Amorsolo, it remains in storage. It has not adorned any of the CCP offices in a long time because, in days before feng shui was popularized by Jullie Yap Daza, the painting was believed to be *malas*. As a historian I am partial to these dark Amorsolo paintings and if I could find or at least afford one, I would probably hang it in my study to defy feng shui.

Art was Amorsolo's way of dealing with the fear and pain bottled up within him during the Japanese occupation. He unleashed all this in his war-time canvasses and sketchbooks. From a window in his Azcarraga studio, Amorsolo committed history to paper in both images and words. These works are interesting for me because here, I see history interpreted by an artist rather than an academic historian.

A small series of drawings, for example, were made during a trip on foot, from Manila to Marilao in January 1945 to acquire rice. One shows the small party accosted by a Japanese sentry on its way back to Manila. One man, in typical Filipino fashion, is scratching his head while the Japanese soldier extends a bowl to extort their hard-earned rice. Unable to express his emotions fully in his images, Amorsolo wrote a caption pointing to the Japanese as "*El hijo de puta*," a term that does not need any translation.

Earlier, in December 1941, Amorsolo drew a Japanese soldier frisking a Filipino not only for arms, but also for valuables. This drawing reminded me of stories my father would tell us about Japanese soldiers wearing and flaunting more than three watches on both wrists. Amorsolo may have been drawing the same hold-up method because on top of this drawing he wrote, "MANDURUKUT GREATER EAST ASIA" as a parody of many propaganda posters that were seen everywhere at the time. Then, in the same drawing is another description of the scene that needs no translation either, "*El hijo de puta, canalla, kupal, etc....!*" In another series of sketches from life he recorded the prisoners of Bataan and Corregidor trudging along what is now Quezon Boulevard. In the forefront is a Japanese officer on horseback and the caption reads, "The horse is handsomer than the rider."

Had these drawings fallen into the hands of a Japanese who understood Spanish, Amorsolo's career would have come to an abrupt end with the stroke of a samurai sword or a bullet—and the Philippines would have lost its first National Artist. The drawings are particularly engaging, because in them Amorsolo has frozen time and left us with his impression of history. Some of these are on exhibit at the Ayala Museum together with Amorsolo's paintings on historical subjects that are worth another column. By looking at Amorsolo's little-known works, we get a clearer picture of the man, the artist and the visual historian.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Homeschooling Charlie

HIGH BLOOD

Dr. Ernie Namin

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

AFTER DOING "tons of research," our daughter Liz concluded that the school system within her driving area in Metro Manila was not compatible with her son Charlie's learning style. When she announced her decision to homeschool Charlie, her parting words were: "This way we will be able to visit with you without having to wait for the school break." What grandfather would argue with that. We live an hour's flight away from Manila, and we were willing to take part in the child's schooling. Then she quoted William Butler Yeats, the 1923 Irish Nobel Laureate in literature: "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." I'd like to think that we are all doing that. Now Charlie has plenty of homework, but no "schoolwork." Time for TV and the computer? That's balanced. Mommy controls that. Shows on the Disney Channel, Discovery Channel and the Learning Channel are favorites. Charlie goes along with that. He has lived a life with no corporal punishment and not one second of ugly tantrum. To give him reading exercises, we texted him longhand descriptions of common objects made to pass for riddles.

Liz can pass for a reincarnation of Pinky MacArthur, Douglas' mom. Liz says "Dugout" Doug himself may have been homeschooled. From one of his biographies I gathered that Pinky took an apartment overlooking the parade grounds at West Point dominated by her first-captain-son and pried into her son's love life when he brought home from the Philippines his Eurasian kept woman when he assumed a high position in the US armed services. The "American Caesar" did not do too poorly. He only did some things right when he led the US forces to leapfrog back to the Philippines during World War II and again did a few things right in Japan and Korea before "fading away."

Now Charlie and I have an intense bonding and several times a day I would ask him to give me a smile from the heart, meaning a bear hug, and he consistently obliges. I can't stop talking about an incident six months ago when Charlie and I were in bed together and he remarked, "Lolo, why is the skin on your face loose? And also on your arms?"

I replied, "That is because I'm already old, but do you still love me even though I'm old?

"The answer is under the pillow."

Now, how could he have contrived an answer under the pillow on such short notice? I lifted it and was amused to see a small hand in a thumbs up signal.

I was attending a medical convention in Metro Manila last May when he challenged me to give him a Roman numeral he could not "decode." I hastily scribbled MCMXCV. "That is the year of my birth!" he exclaimed. Before coming over last month he asked me to do "experiments" with him about the earth and the moon that he did not yet know. I found that he got a few things from Bill Nye, the Science guy, tapes and insisted the moon was like a mirror. That is what Bill Nye said. I did not know that Bill was high on his totem pole. I countered the moon could reflect light but not as well as a mirror. He tried reflecting light with a few objects, saw how they varied, and was finally convinced. We went on to solar and lunar eclipses. In our sessions I found there were a few things I had difficulty explaining and had to scamper to references I left long ago. His curiosity and desire to learn are insatiable. We have taken him on field trips to a chick hatchery, a piggery, a silk factory, a sugar mill and a printing press. More are lined up.

Any chance of interacting with peers? Charlie is involved in little league baseball and a little gym. There is excitement and there is order. He will face the jungle when he is ready.

At 72, I feel Charlie is responsible for that extra spring in my stride and every effort I make to preserve myself if only to see how he develops and what he makes of himself. I am extra happy because I love! "Age wrinkles the skin, but loss of enthusiasm wrinkles the soul." (Samuel Ullman) And what do you think makes me pound this computer keyboard to tell you about all this? Liz named me principal in this school of exactly one pupil and I have an enviable security of tenure.

Dr. Ernie Namin is based in Bacolod.

Iraq opposition tries to limit damage

NEWS ANALYSIS

Khaled Yacoub Oweis

LONDON—An amateurish hostage-taking at Iraq's embassy in Berlin has embarrassed Saddam Hussein's main opponents just as they were beginning to win US support for their blueprint for a new regime in Baghdad.

The umbrella Iraqi National Congress may have sympathized with the cause of the little-known attackers who took Iraqi diplomats hostage for six hours on Tuesday to demand Saddam's ouster.

But the congress quickly distanced itself from a siege that threatened its quest for legitimacy in the West.

"This happened at the wrong time. The opposition has managed to take its message of an enlightened and democratic Iraq to the United States and to Arab countries whose governments do not want to hear about such things," said an opposition member.

"The United States appears to be finally adopting the opposition's program instead of excluding them from the fight, to remove Saddam," he added.

After years of dismissing the opposition as ineffective, US officials met six exiled Iraqi leaders in Washington two weeks ago. They appeared to agree on a manifesto drawn up by the Iraqi National Congress that calls for the creation of a democratic and federal Iraq after Saddam's ouster. Until the meeting, Washington had not made clear what sort of regime would replace Saddam, accused by President George W. Bush of seeking weapons of mass destruction. Bush has vowed to oust Saddam but says he has not yet decided to use military force.

The hostage-takers in Berlin said their choice of target was partly motivated by Germany's opposition to an attack on Iraq. The siege ended without bloodshed after German police stormed the Iraqi embassy. Five hostage-takers were detained and two hostages were released unharmed.

German intelligence officials said they had never heard of the group calling itself the Democratic Iraqi Opposition of Germany. The congress, set up by former banker Ahmad Chalabi in 1992, said it did not recognize the hostage-takers, but contacted them to try to end the siege.

"We confine our war of liberation to Iraq proper. We do not condone such violence," said a congress spokesperson.

The congress groups the main factions opposed to Saddam, including two Kurdish parties in northern Iraq, former Iraqi army officers, businessmen and intellectuals.

The congress manifesto, adopted in 1992, calls for a transitional government to take power after Saddam and for a federal constitution that would be ratified at a referendum.

The 1998 Iraq Liberation Act of the United States authorizes the president to fund Iraqi opposition groups and to promote a democratic government to replace Saddam's regime. Most of the funding has gone to the groups within the congress, but they are not Saddam's only opponents. *Reuters*

Toward a legacy of justice, truth and remembering

IT is often assumed that as people grow older, much, much older, their memories deteriorate and they proceed toward senility. The "younger" generations tend to use this as a premise to the way they deal with senior citizens with much indulgence and condescension, but not always with much respect and credibility. While we acknowledge that sometimes we are no longer as fast nor as physically strong as we used to be, and we sometimes forget the little details of everyday occurrences, we remember things that most are too young to remember... and we remember these things with the vivid clarity of the prime years of our lives.

Yes, we've seen some tumultuous times, the different trials that our country and our people have been through under different presidents and sectoral leaders. We remember the times when the current President's father was president... and we have to beg to differ with the 14-year-old's reminiscence, things were not perfect then. We remember the bright days and the dark days under Marcos' leadership turned dictatorship... the bloodshed, people gone missing amid the extravagance of the "first lady." We remember the activist heroes, those who gave up their chance of gaining from corruption that which their education and talents could've gotten them, and instead chose to live with the poorer brother and sister Filipinos as they fought for their ideals.

We remember Ninoy Aquino, who fought valiantly against the oppressive dictatorship and as a consequence was assassinated in front of millions of outraged Filipinos on another Aug. 21st, 19 years ago. We remember that while his death served to ignite the rest of us into reclaiming our freedom, justice was not really served to his killers and to his family. Like so many others who went before and after him—cases closed, unresolved, quashed by money and power. Truths left undeclared.

We are in what may already be our twilight years. We have seen much and have much to share, so that future generations may know, so that old mistakes may not be repeated, so that injustice may not be perpetrated. Our voices may have grown weak, along with our frail bodies, but our determination has not dimmed. Today we come together to speak out, in what may be one of our last chances to do so, for justice, truth and remembrance. We launch our campaign: "Pirma at Piso Para sa Katarungan, Katotohanan at Pag-aalaala." We are collecting signatures, symbolic and practical commitments from everyone for our cause. We shall use the money, pledges and commitments for a continuing effort in search for justice and truth.

In our hearts we hope and pray that these efforts will help us achieve our goal to see true and lasting peace born of justice, within our lifetime. If not, we pass on this campaign to those of you whom we will leave behind. We pass on our determination, our dreams, along with our memories.

Come, join us and let us do what we can so that we may have more stories of triumph to pass on to our future generations.

—NARITA B. GONZALES, chair, The Tuesday Circle of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP Diliman, Quezon City

The struggle continues

SOME 31 years ago, on Aug. 21, 1971, the Liberal Party meeting at the Plaza Miranda was bombed. That event paved the way for the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus by then President Ferdinand Marcos the following day. There was much apprehension among people, especially among those active in protest against US imperialism like I was.

The suspension of the writ unleashed the military to make unwarranted arrests and arbitrary detention. I was one of those arrested and thrown in one of those prison cells. The probability of immediate liberty was distant. Finally, I was released after languishing in jail for more than two years.

In 1986, a class suit was filed against Marcos for having violated our human rights. Judge Real of the US Hawaii Circuit Court, after six years, passed judgment in our favor and ordered Marcos to indemnify us in the amount of $2 billion. Corollary with Real's order is an enabling law passed by our own Congress that will serve as a guideline for the said order. But sadly, at the initiative of Rep. Imee Marcos, the bill that could have become law has been remanded to its second reading and will be subjected to another round of debate. Obviously, this is a deliberate move to delay further and frustrate Real's judgment.

In the meantime, the pain of injustice is sinking deeper with each passing day, but the struggle continues.

—RODOLFO DEL ROSARIO, 63 Gomburza St., UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City

Craters on both ends of Zapote Bridge

I AM requesting the offices of Las Piñas Mayor Nene Aguilar and Bacoor Mayor Jessie Castillo to take action in restoring the roads damaged by the diggings of a telephone company in Zapote Road.

At the foot of the Zapote Bridge (Las Piñas side), this telephone company did not fully restore a two-meter wide excavation; leaving a six-inch deep crater in the middle of the street. This reduces the three-lane street to a single lane causing a traffic jam; especially during rush hours.

A similar crater is present at the other side of the Zapote Bridge (Bacoor side) reducing the two-lane street to one lane.

—ARNEL S. CRISOSTOMO, Bacoor, Cavite

Sad over MBA's demise

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association was launched in 1975 at a time when the country was still competitive in the sport in the Asian region. Backed by the richest companies of the Philippines, the first professional basketball league thrived for the next 26 years, a feat unequalled in the history of Philippine sports. But, sad to say, the popularity of basketball, particularly due to the existence of the PBA and its pay for play setup, has somehow affected our view of sports development in general. No offense meant to the PBA fans, but the league exists for three reasons only: make money, make money, make money. I don't think sports development is really one of its priorities. Entertainment, maybe.

And what do we have here? A nation supportive of a league with teams named after an energy drink, a hotdog, a liquor, a canned milk, a gasoline brand, etc. If you ask me, I can't relate to these teams, except that I use that brand of gasoline for my car and I like spaghetti with hotdog and I drink that beer Friday evenings and use that milk for my *champorado*. But the connection ends there.

The Metropolitan Basketball Association came into existence in 1998, at a time when there was a euphoria of nationalism because the nation was celebrating its 100th centennial year. A fitting year to launch the first Filipino league that would be truly national in scope. Quickly the "new kid on the block" caught the country by storm. The country was united with the MBA's motto of "one nation, one game" and the nation pulsated with live and exciting basketball games played in over a dozen gymnasiums all over the country. I got a glimpse of the beauty of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao because of the MBA.

The PBA was rattled because of the initial success of the MBA. And a year later, it indiscriminately hired Filipino-Americans. In my view, this diluted the nationalistic spirit after 1998, when I noticed that basketball fans were cheering their hearts out for the likes of Sonny Alvarado, Asi Taulava, Rob Parker, the Seigle brothers and the rest. Its like being proud of *balikbayan* relatives or friends while wondering about their dyed hair and slang English.

Frankly I have doubts if these guys really have Filipino roots. The PBA was desperate at that time and who knows what it did. In reaction to this, the MBA hired its own Fil-Ams.

Back to the present. We saw the demise of the MBA, the first "Filipino people's league" that is national in scope that held its games across the country and not just concentrated in Manila or Luzon. This was a league that united the country and made us proud to be Filipinos. Now, only one professional league survives, filled to the edge by Fil-Ams and imports. Hiring imports may bring our country back to the top of the basketball spot in Asia, but I believe this is a temporary solution. What we need is grass-roots development which only the MBA tried to achieve. And now the MBA is dead. And its death greatly lessens the chances of discovering good but poor basketball players from the countryside.

The MBA may be dead, but it forever changed my view of Philippine basketball. I did not realize before that our country could be united by an unlikely thing as the sport of basketball.

But one thing that I find quite depressing is the continuing support that fans give Fil-Am players who came here for the money, just the money, nothing else.

And another depressing thing is the sports columnists and commentators who cheer the demise of the league and who do not put much in the tradition of not speaking ill of the dead. They have been attacking the MBA since its first year and still find pleasure in kicking it now that it is dead.

—BILL LOPEZ, billylopez_ap@hotmail.com

Slipping on floor-wax story

I WISH to rectify an error and point out a small injustice done to the cause of Philippine marketing which I spotted in an article published in your Business Friday section last Aug. 9, titled "Remember Camay, Veto, Pepsodent, Tancho Tique?"

While the article takes one down memory lane to recall brands and their selling statements (or slogans, as others would call them) with the able help of Greg Garcia, your writer slipped when it came to the story of floor waxes.

Yco was indeed a floor wax brand, but the market leader at the time was S.C. Johnson with Johnson's Floor Wax; and its trademark shine that regularly dazzled wooden floors was immortalized in the slogan "*Syempre naman—Johnson yata 'yan!*" and supported by a series of whimsical, humorous TV commercials (all in black and white) that played up the slogan, such as a couple about to be married, and the groom, distracted by the gleaming church floor exclaims: "*Ang kintab-kintab ng sahig*, honey!" The priest solemnly replies, quoting the Johnson's slogan.

One of the later commercials showed, in a period setting, a pensive Cheng Muhlach (yes, Aga's dad) returning to the ancestral home in a horse-drawn carriage, then ascending the grand staircase and dropping his *tampipi* upon seeing his haughty mother (played perfectly by Etang Discher) to ask her why the floors were gleaming. Mama's retort undoubtedly sets the tone for the prodigal son's homecoming. This commercial, by the way, won an award at the Ad Congress for technical excellence, being a production of Image films/LVN studios, which was the source of the perfect period props, including the ancestral home of LVN matriarch Doña Sisang herself.

I speak with some authority on this matter because I was then part of the creative process, being copywriter at Ideas Inc., S.C. Johnson's ad agency at the time.

It is interesting to note that the "Johnson Yata 'Yan" theme continued even when the business moved to J. Walter Thompson, where its enduring appeal only needed the addition of a recap word: "*Tumatagal*."

Today, Yco floor wax has disappeared, and only Johnson's can be found on supermarket shelves.

One last detail: The article stated that "Yco was the most popular floor wax with the advertising line 'Sa Yco floor wax!'" The correct slogan of Yco was: "*Sapak ang apak sa* Yco Floor Wax!"

It's nice to wax nostalgic and meander down memory lane, so long as they don't change the street signs.

The article also mentioned Mennen Skin Bracer, which had a series of humorous TV commercials with the hero slapping himself with the aftershave and then exclaiming, "Thanks, I needed that." One commercial featured boxer Sonny Liston knocking himself out with the Mennen slaps.

—ALBERT M. ADRIANO, chair and president, Communication Advertising Inc., G/F 1841 Buenconsejo cor. Sta. Rita Streets., Guadalupe, Makati City

What do you think about Roco's resignation?

QUIT post! Brilliant move, Mr. Roco. No need to utter so many stories, "actions speak louder than words."

It was a good test and in my opinion he passed it clearly... but he has to prove more stuff to show good leadership.

Everyone was laughing at that Ibon survey, including myself (what with Erap as No. 2!) but of all people, nobody thought that the highest authority in the land was taking the survey seriously!

Ibon should make more surveys then.—**vic2r**

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

* * *

Sorry, but Gloria has no choice for the good of her dying political career. She's just preparing for her new career in show biz ... haven't you heard of her first lead starrer: "Liar, Liar 2"?—**Predator**

* * *

If he believes that he is being maligned, then he has to fight hard and raise hell. This is an opportunity for him to show the nation what he is made of. We need a thick-skinned, honest and strong leader, not a quitter.

Gloria has given him a challenge. He should not run away from it. Unless of course he is guilty as charged.

If he is innocent, then the country will be thankful if he crushes Gloria for good.

Also, Roco should not be targeting Gloria's aide... that again is unbecoming of him. Go for Gloria's throat. Don't give her some wiggle room. Go for the kill!—**Yinamiran**

* * *

Maybe it's totally unheard of in Philippine governance and politics but in most civilized societies like Australia, public servants being investigated or probed take a leave from office or resign to give the investigators a free hand. The charges against Mr. Roco stand regardless of his resignation. He's not trying to weasel out, he's just being decent about how to go about this.... Bitter yes, yet decent.—**mltuason**

* * *

Once upon a time, a US presidential candidate sobbed through his campaign when his opponents started picking on his wife. Another candidate quit because of alleged mental problems. Wimps! If these people want to be leaders, they should be able to stand the heat and come out swinging. Mr. Roco now wants to be president. You are exactly right, Mr. Yinamiran. He should get back there and plan a counterattack if he has nothing to hide. I heard he used public money for his private use, among other allegations. Let's have the truth, Mr. Roco, sir. Don't quit on us. The Lady has a job to do. She is damned if she does and damned if she doesn't.—**baroque**

* * *

If Roco does not have anything to hide, and is unafraid that some hidden agenda or conflict of interest might be found, then why quit? By quitting, he is sending a message that his ego is more powerful than his intelligence.

Furthermore, because of his impulsive reaction, it is possible that he committed an impeachable offense, which if exposed via legitimate NBI investigation, will seriously compromise his chance of becoming a viable presidential candidate in 2004.

If this is true, then Roco's decision to quit is intended to sabotage the NBI investigation, hence depriving us of the chance to know the truth.

As for me, his decision is self-serving, looking out for himself and not the millions of people who need his intelligence. After all that has happened, do we think he is the kind of man worthy of our vote of confidence?

In my book, he is not.—**bobmalit**

* * *

In reply to bobmalit, his resignation is in effect a manifestation of his cooperation with the investigation of the graft allegations against him. Tell me Mr. Bobmalit, did it not make the job easier for the anti-graft commission to investigate Mr. Roco, now that he's out of his position, and he cannot use any form of influence in the investigation?

To many mind readers out there, she may or may not have any political motives in referring the complaint to the PCAGC. She's the only one who knows.

Gloria should not be faulted for passing on the corruption complaint to the PCAGC, which is the appropriate body. Remember the presidential appointees at the DPWH?

She was quoted as saying, "I hope this would serve as a strong signal to others who think they could get away with wrongdoing just because they are presidential appointees." It will be unjust for her to only refer complaints against lesser-known government officials.—**luzviminda**

* * *

Right decision. On with the investigation. Roco was right in tendering his resignation.

Ms Macapagal's endorsement to have Roco investigated for graft charges done without prior notice to him, though uncivil and apparently politically motivated, is very much indicative of Ms Macapagal's loss of confidence in him. For someone like Roco who holds office at the pleasure and confidence of the President, the only honorable option after such shabby treatment is to resign.—**conway**

* * *

Roco's bolting out of Gloria's Cabinet is an excellent political move. He can now position himself as a viable presidential contender. He can go around the country testing the waters for the presidency in the guise of explaining why he quit.... and what he can still do for the country. He need not criticize Gloria's policies yet as this is premature, but he can float his own opinion about them. But Roco needs to clear himself of the graft charges as they are serious charges. Gloria must also pursue the charges against Roco to show she is sincere in her anti-corruption crusade.—**ladan**

Righting a wrong, restoring a name

AN OLD saying that goes "justice delayed is justice denied," may not always be so. Take the case of my good friend, Conrado L. Natividad Jr., whose employment was unjustly terminated by his firm three years ago, and finally won the case recently against Matling Industrial and Commercial Corp., which he served well as manager for 32 years.

The Department of Labor and Employment released its decision on the case last July 9, 2002 ordering Matling Corp. to pay back wages and separation pay to Natividad. Natividad was fired for alleged malversation of funds. He fought this accusation because it was not true, and his dismissal because it was unfair. As a long-time friend and a high school classmate at the Ateneo de Zamboanga, I know him as an honest, diligent, industrious professional and a man of integrity. His reputation has been tarnished through no fault of his.

The DOLE decision vindicates my good friend's name, and this letter will hopefully go a long way to clear it with his fellow Zamboangueños who treasure a clean name as life itself. Above all, it reaffirms that the wheels of justice in the country, no matter how slow they may turn, still work and will serve justice's ends eventually.

I don't want to go into the details of the case because of space limitation, but for those who want to find out more about the case, they can go to the National Labor Relations Commission, NCR QC, and look into Case No. 30-10-04314 issued on July 9, 2002 by labor arbiter Roma C. Asinas.

—ROGELIO P. HERNANDEZ, GSIS La Mesa Homesite, Novaliches, Quezon City

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Attack on Iraq not imminent, Bush says

BUSH

CRAWFORD, Texas—US President George W. Bush on Wednesday brushed aside speculation about imminent military action against Iraq, saying he was a patient man who would first consult with US allies and Congress.

Bush said the subject of Iraq—and his repeated calls for Saddam Hussein's ouster—did not come up during a meeting with top national security advisers, dismissing "intense speculation" about military action any time soon.

"We take all threats seriously and we will continue to consult with our friends and allies," Bush told reporters when asked about Iraq. "The American people know my position, and that is, that regime change is in the interests of the world.

"I'm a patient man," he said. "We will look at all options and we will consider all technologies available to us, and diplomacy and intelligence. But one thing is for certain . . . this administration agrees that Saddam Hussein is a threat."

In addition to Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, Gen. Richard Myers, the chairman of the US military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, and others attended the meeting at Bush's ranch.

With the world watching for any hints the United States was prepared to take action to topple Saddam, the White House said the talks were to focus on reforming the military's weapons, strategy and finances, and developing a system to defend the country against a missile attack.

"The Pentagon is forward thinking, is aggressive in its approach to developing systems that will more likely be able to respond to what we're going to face," said Bush, dressed in khakis and a casual shirt, after the session.

"The subject (of Iraq) didn't come up in this meeting," said Bush, who called the intense interest in Saddam Hussein a "frenzy."

Bush has made ousting Saddam a top priority, saying the Iraqi leader is developing weapons of mass destruction and must be stopped before he can use them against the United States or its allies, or share them with terrorist groups.

However, Bush said much of the meeting was spent discussing how best to spend money to "better protect ourselves and our friends and allies from the true threats of the 21st century." *Reuters*

Chretien bows to pressure, says he'll quit

CHICOUTIMI, Quebec—Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien bowed to pressure from his ruling Liberal Party on Wednesday and unexpectedly announced he would quit in February 2004, a month after his 70th birthday.

Chretien, facing an increasingly fractious party, said he hoped his surprise decision would help heal a rift between his supporters and those of arch-rival Paul Martin, his former finance minister.

"I will not run again," he said, as some staff members and cabinet ministers choked back tears.

"I will fulfill my mandate and focus entirely on governing from now until February 2004, at which time my work will be done and at which time my successor is chosen."

Chretien, now 68, won power in 1993 and led the Liberals to three straight election victories, the last in November 2000.

But his popularity has been tumbling in recent opinion polls, and his persistent refusal to make it clear whether he would seek a fourth term stoked already high tensions with the impatient Martin camp.

Chretien sacked the fiscally more conservative Martin in early June for refusing to shut down an unofficial leadership campaign, triggering a power struggle that paralyzed the government and threatened to tear the party in two.

"This summer we have not been focused on governing. We are not doing our job. Canadians don't like that. Liberals don't like that," Chretien said in the statement, which he first read to the Liberal parliamentary caucus and then repeated on national television.

"For 40 years the Liberal Party has been like family to me. Its best interests are bred in my bones. I have reflected on the best way to bring back unity, to end the fighting, to resume interrupted friendships."

The Liberals will now be able to avoid bitter fighting that had been predicted in the run-up to a leadership review in February 2003, which is now all but certain to be abandoned. *Reuters*

Neighbor found guilty for murder of San Diego girl

SAN DIEGO—David Westerfield, the neighbor who bought Girl Scout cookies from 7-year-old Danielle van Dam just days before she vanished from her bed, was found guilty of her kidnap and murder on Wednesday.

DANIELLE van Dam

Jurors must now decide if he should die for the harrowing crime that transfixed California's second largest city and much of the nation.

Danielle's mother, Brenda van Dam, broke into sobs and gasped "oh, my God," in the back of a small San Diego courtroom as a clerk read the verdict convicting Westerfield of her daughter's murder in February, the first in a wave of abducted girls across the country this year.

Mrs. van Dam collapsed, crying, against Danielle's father, Damon van Dam, as the clerk read subsequent guilty verdicts against Westerfield, convicting him of kidnapping and possession of child pornography. At least one member of the jury, which spent nine days deliberating behind closed doors before reaching a unanimous decision, also wiped away tears.

Westerfield, 50, a twice-divorced father of two who showed little emotion during the case, appeared pale and trembled, his leg shaking under the defense table, as he listened to the verdicts from just yards away from the van Dams.

Outside the courthouse, a loud cheer went up from throngs of people that had encircled the building for two months. The tearful van Dams were ushered by sheriff's deputies from the packed courtroom and through a hallway jammed with reporters and members of the public. *Reuters*

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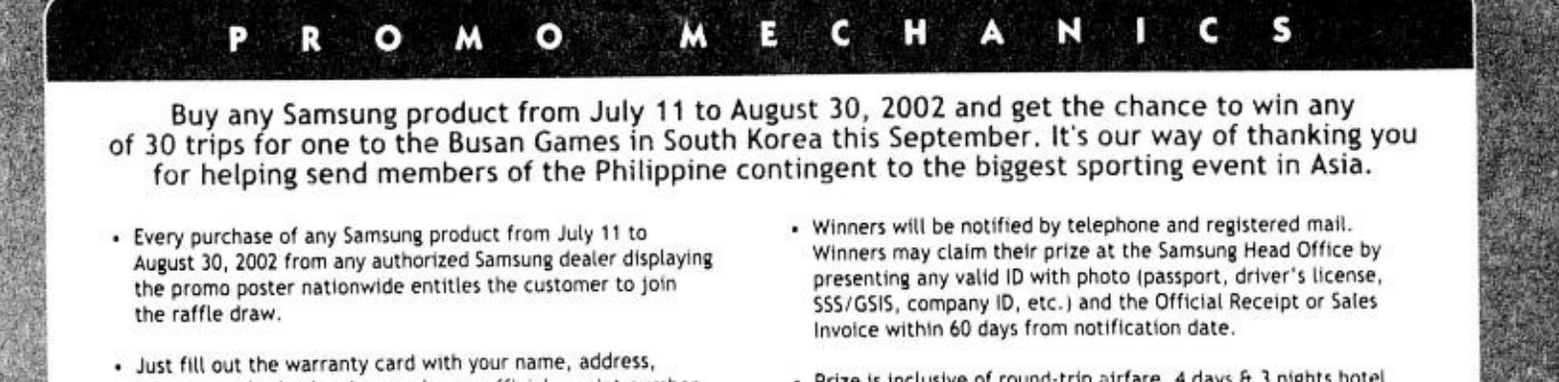

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Indonesia haze soars way above danger levels

JAKARTA—Hundreds of schools closed and residents donned smog masks as air pollution from forest and brush fires soared way above danger levels in one Indonesian region on Thursday.

"Measurements taken this morning show the air pollution index reached 1,076, way above the 300 mark that indicates a dangerous level," said Adi Yana of the environmental agency in West Kalimantan province on Borneo island.

Analysis showed the pollution originated from the burning of organic material, he said.

Many residents in the provincial capital Pontianak, especially motorcycle riders and schoolchildren, are wearing masks, he said.

"We have instructed kindergartens and primary schools to close for three days starting today and we will evaluate whether we need to further extend their closing period," said Abdul Wahab, head of the city's primary education office.

He said there were 67 kindergartens and 224 primary schools in Pontianak.

Wahab said high schools have been told to open only in the afternoons when the haze is thinner.

Low visibility

The meteorology office in the city said morning visibility remained around 500 to 1,000 meters.

"I do not really see any substantial improvement compared to yesterday," said Suhardi, the head of the office.

Thick haze also hung over Palangkaraya, the capital of the neighboring province of Central Kalimantan. The weather office there said visibility remained low at between 300-500 meters.

"We still have winds from the south and southeast but they also carry smoke and therefore they do not help in thinning the haze here," said Hidayat at the office.

Haze was also reported over Banjarmasin in South Kalimantan but weathermen said it was only a thin layer.

The haze, an annual hazard for millions of Indonesians and some of their neighbors, is largely from fires started illegally to clear land for replanting. It has also hit the westernmost island of Sumatra.

"The smoke is becoming visible and we are beginning to smell the acrid smell of fire and our eyes are beginning to suffer from the dust particles," said a weather official in Pekanbaru, the capital of Riau province on the island.

Visibility was around 1,000 meters but was not affecting flights at the local airport, he said.

Monitoring in downtown Pekanbaru showed the particle content of the air was already reaching unhealthy levels. *AFP*

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

BRITAIN'S Princess Diana arrives to tour the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at St. Mary's Hospital in Paddington, London, April 22, 1997. The British Broadcasting Corp. polled more than 30,000 people to see who they thought among the greatest Britons of all time. Princess Diana was among those chosen while her former husband, Prince Charles, was not. AP

Quirky result from poll on 100 greatest Britons

LONDON—Princess Diana is in, Prince Charles is out.

John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison are on the list of the 100 greatest Britons of all time released Wednesday, but Ringo is not.

Richard Burton made it, but Elizabeth Taylor didn't.

The British Broadcasting Corp. polled more than 30,000 people to come up with the list, in which John Lydon (better known as Sex Pistol Johnny Rotten) and Boy George mingle with Winston Churchill, Isaac Newton and Tim Berners Lee, the father of the Internet.

Stretching eligibility to all of the British Isles, the list also includes two Irish rockers, Bono of U2 and Bob Geldof.

The BBC2 television channel plans a series of programs later in the year to choose a top 10.

"I'm sure this series will arouse enthusiastic debate in offices and homes all around the country. Just from talking to people I've got a real sense of how passionately they feel about the subject and who they feel is worthy of the title of Great Briton," said Jane Root, comptroller of BBC2.

The top 100, in alphabetical order:

Alfred the Great
Julie Andrews
King Arthur
David Attenborough
Jane Austen
Charles Babbage
Lord Baden Powell
Douglas Bader
David Beckham
Alexander Graham Bell
Tony Benn
Tim Berners Lee
Aneurin Bevan
Tony Blair
William Blake
William Booth
Boudicca
David Bowie
Richard Branson
Robert the Bruce
Isambard Kingdom Brunel
Richard Burton
Donald Campbell
William Caxton
Charlie Chaplin
Geoffrey Chaucer
Leonard Cheshire
Winston Churchill
James Connelly
Captain James Cook
Michael Crawford
Oliver Cromwell
Aleister Crowley
Charles Darwin
Diana, Princess of Wales
Charles Dickens
Francis Drake
King Edward I
Edward Elgar
Queen Elizabeth I
Queen Elizabeth II
The Queen Mother
Michael Faraday
Guy Fawkes
Alexander Fleming
Bob Geldof
Owain Glyndwr
George Harrison
John Harrison
Stephen Hawking
King Henry II
King Henry V
King Henry VIII
Paul Hewson (Bono)
Edward Jenner
T.E. Lawrence
John Lennon
David Livingstone
David Lloyd George
John Logie Baird
John Lydon
James Clerk Maxwell
Paul McCartney
Freddie Mercury
Bernard Montgomery
Bobby Moore
Thomas More
Eric Morecambe
Admiral Horatio Nelson
Isaac Newton
Florence Nightingale
George O'Dowd
Thomas Paine
Emmeline Pankhurst
John Peel
Enoch Powell
Walter Raleigh
Steve Redgrave
King Richard III
Cliff Richard
J.K. Rowling
Robert Falcon Scott
Ernest Shackleton
William Shakespeare
George Stephenson
Marie Stopes
Margaret Thatcher
William Tindale
J.R.R. Tolkien
Alan Turing
Queen Victoria
William Wallace
Barnes Wallis
James Watt
Unknown soldier
Duke of Wellington
John Wesley
Frank Whittle
William Wilberforce
Robbie Williams

AP

COLOMBIA CRISIS

Rebels kidnap 36 vacationers

BOGOTA—Leftist rebels kidnapped 36 vacationers in northwestern Colombia this week, defying a state of emergency and President Alvaro Uribe's pledge to crack down on political violence and kidnappings in particular.

During a military pursuit of the guerrillas, a soldier was killed and two others were wounded by friendly fire when an Air Force helicopter attacked them by mistake, a military spokesperson said late Wednesday.

Twenty-six tourists, all believed to be Colombians, were captured Wednesday by 20 armed men at the Utria national park, close to Bahia Solano, on the Pacific coast, according to Choco Department Interior Secretary Narvy Yurgaqui.

The kidnappers are believed to belong to the National Liberation Army (ELN), the nation's second-biggest leftist rebel group, said Yurgaqui.

The gunmen seized the tourists in a restaurant and put them in motorized launches and fishing canoes, the official said.

"Then they were taken to a beach called San Pichi, in a jungle area, and at that point their trail disappeared," Yurgaqui said.

"A warning had been issued to all people in the park to take precautions because apparently there was a kidnapping threat," Defense Minister Marta Lucia Ramirez said late Wednesday.

"In any case," she added, "our job now is to work for the release of the hostages, hopefully without endangering them."

On Monday, another 12 tourists, most of them teenagers, were taken hostage at La Fortuna, some 100 km north of Bahia Solano, on the Caribbean coast.

Authorities said the vacationers were seized by members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc)—with 17,000 fighters the largest insurgency in Colombia.

The rebels a day later released two of the hostages as they were being pursued by the military. The friendly fire incident in which one soldier was killed and two others were wounded occurred during the pursuit. *AFP*

Israel arrests university bombing suspects

JERUSALEM—Israel said on Wednesday its security forces had arrested Hamas militants from East Jerusalem suspected of carrying out a bombing at nearby Hebrew University last month that killed nine people, including five Americans.

Security officials announced the arrests shortly after Israeli tanks raided a Gaza Strip refugee camp, destroying buildings and killing a Palestinian man in an incursion which shook a fragile security plan seen as a test for a truce.

Officials from Israel's Shin Bet security service said five members of a Hamas cell were caught on Saturday night on their way to mount a new bombing in central Israel.

The cell is suspected of carrying out attacks which killed 35 people in some of the deadliest bombings since the start of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation in September 2000 after peace talks froze.

"Their methods of operation were very intelligent . . . Their next attacks would have only become more sophisticated," Deputy Public Security Minister Gideon Ezra told Israel Radio.

Israeli security officials said they would pass on their findings to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, which launched its own probe of the July 31 bombing in a crowded cafeteria at Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

The attack—which was carried out by the Islamic group Hamas to avenge the killing of its military commander, his deputy and 14 others, including nine children—drew harsh condemnation from US President George W. Bush.

Four of those arrested are Palestinian residents of Arab East Jerusalem bearing Israeli identity papers which allow them free movement and many rights received by full citizens in the Jewish state. The cell is believed to have received its orders from Hamas members in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Israel captured East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East War and annexed it in a move not recognized internationally.

Palestinians want the eastern part of the city for the capital of a future state, but most Arab residents of Jerusalem have not been active participants in the current uprising.

Security officials said one of the men arrested, Muhammad Odeh, 29, a resident of the Silwan neighborhood in East Jerusalem, planted the bomb at Hebrew University. *Reuters*

100 children buried alive in India rite

MADRAS—More than 100 children were buried alive for about a minute as part of a ritual to appease two Hindu goddesses in a village in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, a Hindu priest said Thursday.

The ritual, organized once every five years, was held Wednesday at Perayur village, about 500 km from Madras, Tamil Nadu's provincial capital.

Local lore has it that the festival has been organised regularly for the past 400 years to propitiate two ferocious female deities, Muthukuzhi Mariamman and Kaliamman, both incarnations of the Hindu goddess of destruction, Kali.

According to Kali Raj, secretary of the ritual's organising committee, all 106 children who took part in Wednesday's ceremony, known as "Kuzhi Maatru Thiruvizha" or "Festival of emerging from the pit", were fine but exhausted by their experience.

"More than 8,000 girls and young men have gone through this ritual of live burial at this temple in the last 400 years and we have not had a single mishap recorded," Raj said.

The ceremony was essentially a "thanksgiving" service offered by parents of those children who had been suffering from chronic diseases, while others took part in the ritual to show their gratitude for being blessed with an heir, he said.

Wednesday's ritual, which began in the early hours of the morning, was completed in about five hours.

Children, wrapped in cloths dipped in turmeric water, were brought by parents in a procession to the beating of drums and accompanied by male and female priests. *AFP*

THE forward magazine of the US Navy destroyer USS Shaw explodes after an attack by Japanese carrier-based strike aircraft on the Hawaiian port of Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941. Visiting an aircraft carrier on the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, US President George W. Bush on Friday will add Sept. 11, 2001 to Japan's Dec. 7, 1941 sneak attack as a date that will live in infamy. REUTERS/US NAVY

Step-by-step lessons on making bombs latest al-Qaida tapes shown on CNN

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—An instructor provides step-by-step lessons on how to construct pure TNT and bomb components from common household ingredients in the latest al-Qaida videotape aired by CNN.

The tape, shown Thursday, includes instructions on manufacturing detonators and fuses, and presumably would allow terrorists to put together highly explosive devices at the site of an attack without drawing the attention of intelligence agencies, CNN said.

The broadcast is the fourth installment in a series of videotapes the network said came from a cache of 64 al-Qaida tapes taken from Afghanistan. CNN said Tuesday that it paid $30,000 for the footage.

The videotape contains bomb-making instructions similar to those found in al-Qaida written manuals recovered from the terrorists' hide-outs in Afghanistan, the network noted.

But it said the tape is significant because it shows that the terrorist group has designed a simple and precise lesson plan—easy to follow by new recruits—for making explosives without being detected.

"The overarching point here is that they can pick any venue or target city . . . arrive in that city and, based on what we are seeing here, (construct a bomb) using common materials," CNN quoted Tony Villa, a consultant for the US government on terror tactics and bomb making, as saying.

The three-hour training session was hidden inside an action movie videotape and was preceded by quotations from the Quran and a call to Muslims to "fight in the cause of God," an indication that it was meant to be distributed secretly to recruits in Osama Bin Laden's forces, the network said.

CNN said the clips it aired did not provide enough information for viewers to construct home-made bombs.

Bin Laden was indicted in US federal court for the Aug. 7, 1998 bombing attacks on US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, that killed 231 people, including 17 Americans, and wounded about 5,000. *AFP*

Swollen China lake threatens millions

BEIJING — Chinese authorities have started evacuating people living around a lake the size of Luxembourg that threatens to burst its banks and engulf millions.

Some 850,000 workers and officials in the southern province of Hunan had joined the battle to stop Dongting Lake from flooding after the regional government declared a flood emergency on Wednesday for the first time since 1998, state media said.

Water levels could match those in 1998, when the worst floods in decades killed more than 4,000 people after the Yangtze River and Dongting burst their banks, the China Daily said.

On Dongting, China's second largest freshwater lake and a major outflow for the flood-prone Yangtze, water levels hit 34.45 meters on Thursday, almost 2.5 meters over the flood-warning level, a local flood control official said.

"All the water is coming together in Dongting so its waters just keep rising," he said.

More than 7,000 soldiers have been mobilized to reinforce embankments around Dongting shielding more than 10 million people and 667,000 ha of farmland.

If Dongting burst its banks, floods could spread to the neighboring province of Hubei and its capital Wuhan, which has a population of more than seven million people.

Hunan's capital, Changsha, and its six million people were also at risk, it said. *Reuters*

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Condone power co-ops' debts, party-list group urges GMA

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo's 10-point power program, which was supposedly designed to lower power rates, was dictated by a pending $600-million World Bank rural power loan, according to officials of the party-list group Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec).

Apec officials said this was one of the reasons Malacañang had refused to condone the P17-billion debt of rural electric cooperatives (REC).

They made this disclosure Thursday when they launched a nationwide signature campaign here asking Ms Macapagal to issue an order that would "emancipate" all 119 RECs from debts they incurred from the National Electrification Administration (NEA).

By cleansing the RECs' accounting slate, rural power rates in Luzon would immediately go down by an average of 45 centavos, Apec leaders said.

Rates in the Visayas would be reduced by 38 centavos, while Mindanao rates would be lowered by 33 centavos, according to an Apec survey.

Edgar Valdez, Apec president, said the debt condonation also simplifies the ownership issues surrounding all 119 RECs and restores financial and managerial controls to the RECs' member-consumers.

"This is the more immediate and more permanent solution to the power crisis . . . (Ms Macapagal) was able to direct the reduction of electricity by 30 centavos when the government assumed the P300-billion debt of the National Power Corp. By absorbing only P17 billion (in REC debts), we can apply a permanent power rate reduction for rural communities, which can reach as high as P1," said Apec party-list Rep. Ernesto Pablo.

Ms Macapagal missed the one-year prescriptive deadline set by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira) for the government to condone the RECs' debts, Pablo said.

Epira's Section 60 gave Malacañang until July 26 to condone these debts, to prepare the regional power distributors before Epira's "open access" provision is applied.

"Open access" allows consumers to select their power suppliers, a feature of a deregulated power industry where competition would theoretically sustain lower electricity rates.

Malacañang's delays may be deliberate, said Louie Corral, Apec secretary general. He said industry players had been lobbying for stringent controls over RECs because "they intend to build mini-Meralcos all over the country."

Meralco is one of the largest power distributors with independent access to electricity that is supplied by its own independent power producers (IPP).

Corral said these are the same influence brokers who pushed Congress into passing a "flawed Epira" using "*payola* (pay-offs)." He said the successful lobby resulted in the insertion of a "cross-ownership" provision, which allows generation companies to own stakes in the transmission sector.

The "cross-ownership" provision negates the Epira's original intent to remove industry monopolies, said Voltaire Tupaz, an officer of the People Opposed to Warrantless Increase of Electricity Rates (Power) here.

Corral said industry players now want to take over successful RECs, which earn well from urban markets like Baguio, General Santos, Lipa and Bacolod cities.

The government is expected to lobby strongly for the $600-million WB loan targeting rural power this October, although the proposed portfolio was offered as early as April, Corral said.

Pakistani held while trying to enter with RP deportees

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A Pakistani national tried to slip into the country by joining 491 Filipinos who went home after Kuala Lumpur implemented a stricter measure on illegal aliens.

Shukat Ali, 24, of Swat, Pakistan, was collared after arriving at the Majini Pier here on board the BRP Bacolod 550 along with "voluntary deportees."

Ali had stayed with the deportees on Mapun Island in Tawi Tawi.

Authorities said Ali came in with the second wave of Filipinos who left Sandakan by boat 18 days ago.

Commodore Ernesto de Leon, head of the Naval Forces South, said Ali's passport indicated that it was his first time to set foot in the Philippines.

"We have become suspicious of him. He cannot justify his trip from Indonesia to Malaysia," he said.

Another reason the Pakistani gave authorities was that he was visiting his girlfriend in Basilan.

The Navy Intelligence Group and other military units are interrogating Ali. "After the tactical interrogation, we will turn him over to the Bureau of Immigration," De Leon said.

He said the bureau would take the necessary steps in deporting the illegal alien.

From Majini Pier, the deportees were transferred to the Tangan Gym inside the Naval Compound where they would be staying for processing.

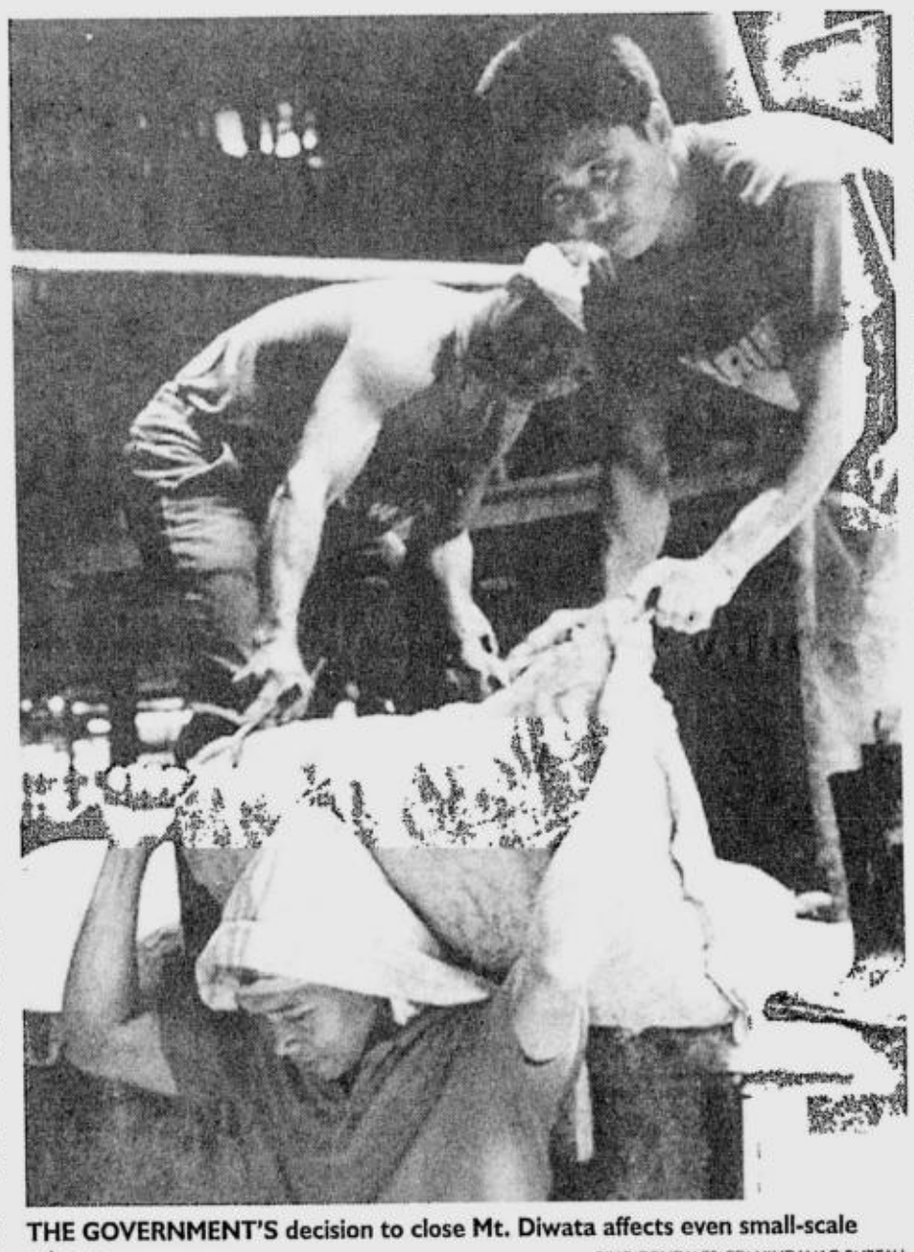
De Leon said authorities would also check on some deportees for possible involvement in criminality.

Subjecting the deportees to tests was earlier contained in a request sent by City Mayor Clara Lobregat to Malacañang.

Lobregat had complained that the wave of deportees would affect the city's peace and order condition.

The new batch of deportees included 55 children, according to the manifesto of the BRP Bacolod 550.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina urged the Department of Foreign Affairs and the immigration bureau to closely check the papers of the deportees.



THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to close Mt. Diwata affects even small-scale miners.
BING GONZALES/ PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Gold-rush area closed to all types of mining

By Anthony Allada and Ayan Mellejor
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Mt. Diwata (also known as Diwalwal) in Monkayo, Compostela Valley was closed to all types of mining activities on Wednesday, contrary to an earlier pronouncement by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez that only big miners would be barred.

Members of the Diwalwal Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau continued to shut down even small-scale mining.

But Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte almost prevented the bureau from implementing the closure order had not for the deployment of new troops to the gold-rush area.

Duterte, who was tasked by Malacañang with overseeing peace and order in Diwata, expressed worry that violence could erupt if the Task Force Diwalwal was not replaced.

His effort was aborted after having been told that the task force was already abolished and that new forces have been deployed there.

The mayor had earlier objected to any effort to close the mining area "unless new faces were deployed there."

The 15-member TWG team went around the gold-rush area, backed by dozens of policemen, to serve a written closure order to the miners.

Constancio Paye, the team leader, said the full closure of the mines would allow the government to conduct an inventory of existing properties in the area.

Benguet project seen as Diwalwal model

BAGUIO CITY—Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez is using a controversial project of Benguet Corp., the country's oldest mine, as a model for solving the crisis at Mt. Diwalwal, an official of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau here said.

Neoman de la Cruz, MGB regional director, said Alvarez was impressed by a service contract arrangement between Benguet Corp. and its retired employees, and the small-scale mining community in Itogon, Benguet.

The arrangement, according to Danilo Galang, Benguet Corp. district vice president for mine operations, is called the "partnership mine" program. It is designed as a short-term leasehold contract that allows investment groups from the small-scale miners to exploit some of the underground tunnels left idle when the firm suspended its Itogon operations in 1992.

De la Cruz said Alvarez asked Benguet Corp. to provide him with details of the arrangement for use in the Diwalwal gold-rush area which the secretary ordered closed last week.

The directive bars mining firms from entering the gold rush region, although it allowed some 2,500 employees to pursue small-scale mining at Monkayo, Compostela Valley. The gold rush, which took place in 1983, had sparked cases of violence there.

Under the "partnership mine" program, the net production from five active service contract groups is divided between the firm and the miners, with the contractors taking home 60 percent of the projected 50-ton daily gold output.

Ideally, a nine-month operation can earn miners up to P5 million, MGB officials said, excluding the costs for milling and processing, which the firm leases out for a fee.

"Cordillera and Davao mine experts were sent to Diwalwal as far back as four years ago to validate and rationalize the operations there. It was a mess. Tunnels criss-crossed and very few tunnels could be considered absolutely safe. The operations there were designed for conflict because one miner could not stake a tunnel if it crossed into another tunnel," De la Cruz said.

Galang said the program was developed in 2000, and was applied in November last year, to fully exploit the firm's idle resources in Itogon.

He said the program allowed the firm to build up additional revenues to support its P2-million yearly cost to sustain suspended mining camps like the old Benguet gold operation site.

But the Benguet Corp. project is itself the subject of opposition.

Itogon Mayor Mario Godio said the 400-member Acupan Upper Camps Community Livelihood Association (Acuccla) had opposed the contract for the mine's "Level 1500" because it is the tunnel layer closest to the surface where their village is situated.

The Acupan villagers live on a land which is still under the coverage of Benguet Corp.'s mineral patents, Godio said.

Acuccla members have been barricading the portal leading to "Level 1500" since last week. Godio said negotiations were ongoing to settle the dispute. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Negros Or. gov asks PCSO for calamity aid

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz has asked the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for assistance to rehabilitate the province in the aftermath of the destruction wrought by tropical depression "Milenyo."

In a letter to PCSO chair Ma. Viviana Singson de Leon, Arnaiz said the damage brought by Milenyo on the province's infrastructure had reached P21 million.

The bulk of the damage or about P10 million worth involved irrigation canals, according to a report of the National Irrigation Administration.

The Department of Public Works and Highways said damage to roads reached P3.25 million. Damage to provincial government property was placed at P8 million.

The Department of Agriculture was expected to submit its report on Wednesday afternoon. But Bayawan City officials reported that the damage to crops in their area reached P17.6 million.

The Department of Education reported that damage to school buildings ran to P167,000.

A partial report also said 622 houses were damaged.

Negros Oriental was among the areas badly hit by Milenyo. Heavy rains spawned by the tropical depression caused flash floods that left at least eight persons dead and four others missing in Sta. Catalina town.

ROUNDUP

'Gloria' store robbed

BAGUIO CITY—An outlet of the "Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera" in Itogon, Benguet, lost at least P16,200 to robbers on Friday. Police said two armed men demanded money from three employees of the National Food Authority aboard a GMA rolling store in Barangay Ucab, Itogon. The "Tindahan" truck was delivering supplies to a store in Ucab when they were robbed. Police said the robbers took only the cash collection.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Slay suspect tagged

BAGUIO CITY—A witness in the February killing of an engineer in Tuba, Benguet, has identified one of the six assailants in a police lineup last week. Wilmar Malibac, driver of slain engineer Eufemio Gonzalo, said Romeo Binoloc dragged them inside the L-300 van used by the suspects when they were abducted on Naguilian Road here. Tuba police said one of the six armed men shot and killed Gonzalo in La Trinidad, Benguet, and wounded Malibac. Binoloc and five others were charged with robbery with homicide and frustrated homicide at the prosecutor's office in La Trinidad.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MSU int'l reunion opens

DAVAO CITY—Alumni and past faculty and staff members of the Mindanao State University (MSU) system are holding an international reunion until Sunday at the Apo View Hotel here. The reunion draws hundreds of local participants as well as those coming from the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and other Asian countries. The hosting of the annual event brought the reunion venues to Las Vegas, the US, Cagayan de Oro City, and on San Juan Island in Seattle, Washington. Major activities in the four-day event include a grand opening ceremony; a day-long sports festival among intergroups, fraternities and batches; plenary sessions on technical and other issues relevant to the university; discussions on alumni concerns, cultural presentations; and a fellowship night. Established in 1961, the MSU has produced thousands of professionals in various fields who are now working in various parts of the country and all over the world. The MSU system has seven autonomous campuses located in strategic areas throughout Mindanao: Iligan, General Santos, Sulu, Maguindanao, Naawan, Tawi-Tawi and Marawi.

Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Drivers sue mayor's aide

SANTIAGO CITY—A security aide of Mayor Jose Miranda was charged with 90 counts of robbery for allegedly asking money from the bus, jeepney and tricycle drivers here. Supt. Renato Turingan, city police director, said Danilo de la Cruz, a member of the public order and safety department and Miranda's close-in security aide, was charged before the prosecutor's office after the drivers filed the complaint. The drivers said De la Cruz threatened them and asked P50 to P100 from each of them. They said the extortion activities happened between February and July this year. Wilfredo Baltar, city information officer, said Miranda was not aware of De la Cruz's illegal activities and ordered an investigation against his aide.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Gov seeks Congress seat

TACLOBAN CITY—Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla has her eyes set on Congress in 2004. She said she would run for a seat in the first congressional district because "I have no other place to go." Petilla is on her third and last term for governor. She is a registered voter of Palo town, which belongs to the first district represented in Congress by former broadcaster Ted Failon. Petilla comes from the influential Loreto clan. Her sister is Rep. Carmen Cari of the fifth district. Her nephew, Carlos, is mayor of Baybay town, Leyte. Petilla said the support of the seven mayors in the district helped made her decision. Barangay leaders also encouraged her to run for Congress.

Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

One-stop processing center

TAGBILARAN CITY—The city council approved an ordinance establishing a one-stop center to cut red tape in the processing of business permits. The center seeks to address the perennial problem of delays in the processing of permits and licenses, said Councilor Jose Antonio Veloso, author of the ordinance. The ordinance puts in place a system that will discourage unscrupulous employees from delaying the processing to force traders to enter into under-the-table deals. Other areas which adopted the one-stop concept experienced increases in revenue, he noted.

Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Appeal for rape convict

BACOLOD CITY—The lawyers of American Victor Meardith Pearson, who was sentenced to 80 years in jail for rape, filed a notice of appeal before the Kabankalan Regional Trial Court on Aug. 16. Judge Henry Aries of the Kabankalan RTC found Pearson, 56, guilty of raping twice his 15-year-old housemaid in 2000. During the promulgation of his sentence on Aug. 7, Pearson lamented that he was not given justice. He is still facing 65 counts of rape filed by four other girls, ages 13 to 17. Pearson, a Vietnam War veteran, allegedly raped the minors while working for him at his compound at Barangay Andulawan, Ilog town, Negros Occidental. He has denied the charges.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Rash of resignations rattles Malacañang

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE SUCCESSIVE resignations from the Cabinet are worrying Malacañang.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the resignations had affected the country's stability.

"Some of the resignations are not of the President's making. Some of them could not be helped," he said.

"But definitely it will be better for stability if this trend does not continue," he said at a news briefing yesterday.

The wave of resignations began when Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. resigned as foreign secretary in July due to "policy differences" with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Guingona stepped down after Malacañang "prematurely" announced that he had resigned.

Education Secretary Raul Roco followed two weeks ago in protest of the President's endorsement of a graft complaint against him to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

Ms Macapagal denied any ill-motive against Roco but nonetheless accepted his resignation.

On Tuesday, Commissioner Rene Bañez of Bureau of Internal Revenue resigned, claiming he was being sabotaged by BIR employees against reforms.

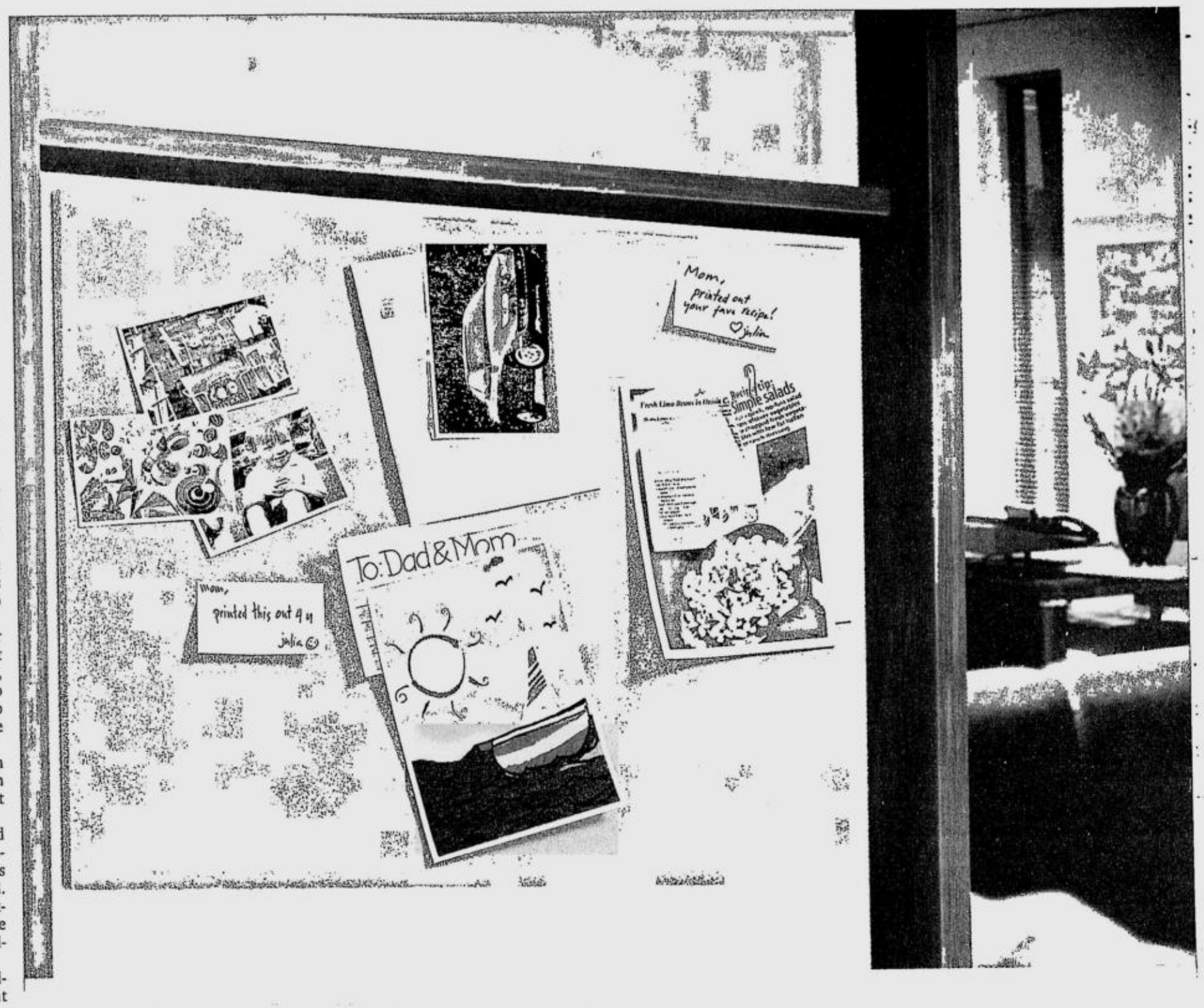
Some observers said Ms Macapagal could soon lose the support of her allies if the resignations continue.

Guingona chairs Lakas while Roco chairs Aksyon Demokratiko, which are both part of the administration People Power Coalition.

Bunye said the President remained confident of the support of the Lakas party, of which she is the president.

"(House) Speaker (Jose) De Venecia assures the President that the organization remains solid behind her. She has the assurance of top leaders of Lakas," he said.

Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Joey Rufino had challenged those who want to run for president to bolt the administration coalition now, saying Ms Macapagal would be the standard bearer of Lakas in 2004.



FEU . . .

From page A1

Palace source could not say whether De Jesus accepted the offer. "But I think he will accept," the source said. "I think he will be the next education secretary."

At his regular briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang had no official announcement yet on the next education secretary.

Bunye, however, said the search committee chaired by Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas submitted a short list of potential appointees to the President last week.

The President earlier disclosed over dinner with selected columnists last Friday that former Education Secretary Alejandro Roces, who served under her late father Diosdado Macapagal in the same capacity, was at the top of the list of persons recommended for the post.

Roces has reportedly declined the position and recommended instead former Education Undersecretary Nilo Rosas, currently president of the Philippine Normal University.

The source said De Jesus was well qualified for the top DepEd post. "Mr. De Jesus is respected and well recognized in his field, and is an ideal man for the position," the source said.

De Jesus, who sits on the board of the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Manila University, is also the president of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities.

He was a presidential adviser for rural development during the term of then President Corazon Aquino. De Jesus holds a doctorate on modern Southeast Asian history from Yale University.

Roco resigned on Aug. 13 after the President endorsed to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission a graft complaint filed against him by the employees' union of the department.

Violence . . .

From page A1

Manila said.

"First the kidnappings and then the deficit. The market is on the edge with these domestic concerns and the fact that Asian currencies are also down did not help the peso," a trader with a foreign bank said.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho announced that the budget deficit had reached P133 billion in the seven months to July, exceeding the government's full-year P130-billion ceiling, the finance department said Thursday. ***(See story on Page B1.)***

Despite the blowout, Camacho told a news conference he still considered the P130-billion deficit ceiling as "a fighting target for the government."

"We know that this will be extremely tough to meet but we believe that it is more important to hold ourselves to our original target so that we remain aggressive in our fiscal discipline program," he said in a statement.

Fears of a growing budget deficit have affected sentiment in local markets, sparking fears of higher interest rates.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange composite index finished 6.23 points, or 0.6 percent, lower at 1,098.50 after losing 24.15 points Wednesday to 1,104.73.

"The lack of fresh leads, lingering concerns over the government's fiscal position, and news of the latest kidnapping in the south weighed down the market," said Mark Canizares, an analyst at Citiseconline.com.

Analysts said news of the kidnapping linked to the notorious Abu Sayyaf group again highlighted the law and order problem in the country that had been a major turnoff for foreign funds.

The military Thursday found the severed heads of two Jehovah's Witnesses from a group of six kidnapped by Muslim extremists on Tuesday in the southern Philippines. ***With a Reuters report***

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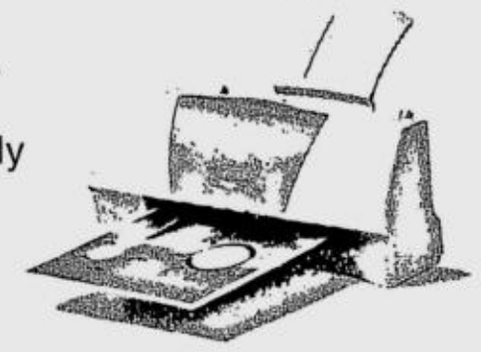

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Abu Sabaya still alive, says Basilan priest

From page A1

But his body was never recovered despite an intensive, three-day search.

The following day, he was seen at a "duwaa," a festivity which locals hold to celebrate something good that has happened while the rest of the country celebrated the death of a dreaded leader of the Abu Sayyaf.

Nacorda claimed yesterday that villagers in various parts of Basilan had reported to him about seeing Sabaya after the encounter and that by June 27, he had already regrouped with other Abu Sayyaf leaders.

Nacorda said that he got the "reliable" information from a doctor whose friends had personally seen Sabaya in Basilan. He added that some of the witnesses were sympathizers of the bandit group.

Quoting the witnesses' accounts, Nacorda said that Sabaya surfaced in his birthplace, Barangay Balas, Malamawi in Lamitan with a certain Amir on the same day that he was allegedly killed, and stayed there until June 22.

A day later, Sabaya went to the municipality of Tuburan, where his relatives and many supporters were based. There, they celebrated his safe return with a duwaa.

Sabaya reportedly stayed in Tuburan until June 26, although he did not often come out in the open despite the presence of many Abu Sayyaf sympathizers in the area.

Other sightings

It was on June 27 that Sabaya was seen with Abu Sayyaf leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Hamsiraji Sali in lower Kapayawan in Isabela City, the capital of Basilan, where the bandits had reportedly regrouped for the first time since the encounter, Nacorda said.

The Lamitan priest further said that a witness had claimed that Sabaya knocked on the door of his house in lower Kapayawan at 3 a.m. on June 27, along with other Abu Sayyaf members.

A MASSIVE, three-day search by men of the Philippine Navy for the remains of Abu Sabaya along the coast of Sibuco town, Zamboanga del Norte, in June yielded nothing. ROMY GACAD/AFP

"He said that they were discussing plans when they would strike again," Nacorda said, adding Sabaya gave no specifics.

He said his source was also a former hostage of the Abu Sayyaf bandits in 1993 who receives reports from villager friends in Basilan about the Abu Sayyaf. He himself has not seen Sabaya, Nacorda said.

Nacorda himself had been kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf and held for two months in 1994. Last year, Abu Sayyaf bandits broke into his parish to kill him but they only found his acolyte and driver and killed them.

The Lamitan priest has been in the news lately after he exposed the alleged connivance between some members of the military and the Abu Sayyaf, which is why government troops had failed to wipe out the bandits despite heightened military operations in Basilan.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said that he would convene a court martial upon the recommendation of the Senate to investigate the three officers Nacorda tagged in the connivance. This was in connection with the siege of the Dr. Jose Ma. Torres Hospital in Lamitan where the Abu Sayyaf bandits holding close to 20 hostages from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan were surrounded by the military but managed to escape.

Vindicated

"We're really happy. We feel vindicated, although there is also some anxiety because this is just the start of a court hearing," Nacorda said.

He urged Cimatu to appoint members of the AFP who are "independent-minded, well-respected among the military, sincerely working to clean the image of the AFP and want what is good for the country."

"I'm sure they would not cover up every wrong deed. There are still some good officers in the AFP," Nacorda said.

In his speech that spoke of his people's aspirations of peace to return to Basilan, Nacorda said that he was "not against our responsible and committed military officials. Most priests in Basilan are provided with escorts."

He also lauded how witnesses from Basilan stood "for truth and justice even against the high and the mighty military authorities and the highest local official—the governor" during the Senate and House hearings.

He also welcomed the presence of the Americans, "whoever can help us in fighting the terrorists . . . For Basileños, there is never a sovereignty issue to talk about or any other issues raised against the Americans . . ."

The Rotarians raised P100,000 on the spot for Nacorda to rebuild his parish which was damaged during the Lamitan siege. ***With a report from Blanche Rivera***

Heads of 2 hostages displayed in public market

From page A1

"His neck was cut three times."

He said the note justified the beheadings as part of jihad, or holy war.

Officials said the bandits were still holding hostage Mantic's 23-year-old widow Emily; Mantulo's sister Florida, 40; his sister-in-law Cleofe, 46; and Nori Bendijo, 41.

Relatives said the members of the Jehovah's Witnesses were not spreading their faith in the predominantly Muslim area but selling Avon cosmetic products, herbal tea and medical supplies.

"They didn't even have religious leaflets," Nori Bendijo's husband Tirso said. "They were just trying to supplement their income."

Junie Cleofe said he allowed his wife to join the group as they were having a hard time in making ends meet.

"We don't preach there. We just want to earn a living. We never expected this thing to happen," he said. The Cleofes have two sons, ages 9 and 11.

A spokesperson for the Jehovah's Witnesses main office in Quezon City said the congregation did not deploy the group in Sulu to recruit new members.

"We have not sent anyone for a religious mission in Sulu," Jean Jacek, an American, said in fluent Filipino.

Even so, Jacek said the congregation was extending financial and spiritual assistance to the victims' families.

The Mantulos are from Malangas, Zamboanga del Sur. They moved to Zamboanga City in 1994 and have since lived in an apartment near Kingdom Hall of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Barangay Pasonanca. The Mantics are from Lapuyan, Zamboanga del Norte.

Mantulo's sister, Yvonne, said the government was returning her brother's head to her family.

"I hope they'll free the remaining (hostages), allow them to come home alive," she said. "We're so saddened."

Police said two gunmen stopped a jeep carrying the Jehovah's Witnesses and forced them out. The driver was left behind and alerted authorities. A Muslim couple, who served as guides, were also not taken.

US, RP reactions

The Philippine and US governments denounced the beheadings as "terrorist acts" and demanded the unconditional release of the four remaining hostages.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo is very concerned about the safety of the hostages and just like any other decent Filipino, we condemn the atrocities by this group," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

. . "We strongly condemn the latest terrorist attacks by the Abu Sayyaf (bandits) that are the perpetrators of this crime. Terrorism is never justified and all the hostages should be released immediately, safely and unconditionally," US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley said.

"The United States fully supports the efforts of the government of the Philippines to stop this hostage-taking," Kelley added.

Ms Macapagal sent Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to Jolo and the military sent four battalions to track down the bandits led by Muin Sahiron, nephew of Abu Sayyaf leader Radulan Sahiron.

According to military sources, Muin Sahiron and Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani have joined forces.

Tolentino said the reinforcements, including elite Scout Rangers who received counterterrorism training from US troops this year, arrived in the town of Patikul from other villages on Jolo island.

The Army pounded suspected bandit hideouts near Patikul with rockets and cannon on Thursday. Residents heard mortar blasts in the area and saw two military helicopters aloft.

Gen. Roy Cimatu, Armed Forces chief of staff, said he was bringing with him to Sulu today the US-trained Light Reaction Company to track down not only group of Sahiron but also that of Galib Andang, alias Commander Robot, and Mujib Susukan.

The Abu Sayyaf group is also holding three Indonesians who were kidnapped in a narrow strait off Sulu on June 17.

"I have ordered Tolentino to hunt down all these groups and recover the four Filipinas and three Indonesians as early as possible," Cimatu told the INQUIRER over the telephone.

Lobregat shocked

The beheadings shocked Zamboanga City Mayor Clara Lobregat. "No human in his right mind could do such a thing," she said.

But what bothered her most was how the Abu Sayyaf could still have managed to carry out such a kidnapping in broad daylight.

"I thought there's no more Abu Sayyaf. I thought they are on the run. So why did this happen?" Lobregat said.

Only weeks ago, President Macapagal, US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone as well as top US and Philippine military officials had declared the Abu Sayyaf as a spent force. The bandits have been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Military spokesperson Col. Jose Mendoza, however, denied the kidnapping showed the Abu Sayyaf still had much power.

"What we have now in Jolo are splinter groups that are saying they are still around," he said. "They staged this abduction because they are feeling the pressure."

The Abu Sayyaf has often kidnapped for ransom but more frequently has abducted poor Filipinos, mostly Christians, to serve for weeks or months as slave labor. Kidnapped women are sometimes forced to marry guerrillas.

On May 27, 2001, Abu Sayyaf bandits raided a tourist resort in Palawan and abducted three Americans and 17 Filipinos. Days later, the gang beheaded American Guillermo Sobero from Corona, California. They also beheaded several Filipino hostages.

That kidnapping saga ended on June 7 when US-backed Filipino soldiers tracked down the bandits. They rescued American missionary Gracia Burnham, but her husband Martin and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap were killed in the bloody jungle raid.

A Filipino man, Roland Ullah, is still being held from another Abu Sayyaf mass kidnapping two years ago from a tourist resort in Malaysia. ***With reports from Blanche Rivera, TJ Burgonio, AP, AFP, Reuters***

Vi 'very much alive'

From page A1

text messages about the ambush and death of the Lipa City mayor circulated all day.

"Patay na si Vilma Santos. Naambush sa Malvar, Batangas, ngayon lang (Vilma Santos is dead. She had been ambushed in Malvar, Batangas, just now)," went the text message.

There was one message that said Vilma was pronounced "dead on arrival" in an unnamed hospital.

Even TV networks like GMA 7 and ABS-CBN immediately confirmed the news and called up Vilma's sister, Emilene, the actress' constant companion.

"There were stars who panicked after they read the message," Vilma's longtime assistant, Aida Fandialan, told the INQUIRER yesterday. "The news also reached the Senate so some senators were initially shocked," she said.

Much alive

Eddy Reyes, Vilma's executive assistant, said Vilma "is very much alive."

Reyes said Santos even had a meeting with members of the Lipa school board that morning and with the town's councilors and barangay captains in the afternoon.

"She was in her office last Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.," Reyes said in a phone interview.

Emilene said "we didn't tell her right away because we didn't want her to be alarmed."

But in a matter of minutes, Vilma herself received several text messages.

The news alarmed both the show biz and political circles, Vilma being married to Sen. Ralph Recto.

Show biz stars close to Vilma called her up and the people close to her. They included Christopher de Leon, Tirso Cruz III, Nadia Montenegro, Arlene Muhlach and Maribeth Bichara, Vilma's longtime choreographer in the actress' now defunct musical-variety show, "Vilma."

Nothing new

Emilene said that reports about Vilma's "death" were nothing new to them.

Early this year, a would-be assassin told authorities that he was part of an eight-man liquidation squad out to kill the mayor and her husband to stop her from campaigning against illegal drug syndicates in Lipa.

"That's why she (Vilma) increased her security," Emilene said. "She now has nearly a dozen escorts whenever she leaves the house. They go with her everywhere, whether to Lipa, to a show biz function or a social event. They're more alert now."

The people around Vilma, especially her family members, have become worried about her safety.

"Of course, we're also afraid of what might happen to her," Emilene said. "We don't have any clue who is spreading all those messages. We don't know of anyone who became her enemy."

Fandialan said Vilma had been praying more these days for her and her family's safety. "They've been 'killing' Vilma twice already," she said.

"Last year, she even received death threats. She doesn't have any enemy that we know of. We all fear for her safety. Why are there people who are doing this to her? *Grabe na 'to,"* she said.

It will also be recalled that the shooting of her movie, "Dekada '70" was temporarily put on hold because of threats to her life.

Reyes denied the angle that the ambush story came from the mayor's office.

Gimmick

Reyes said this was not a publicity gimmick to drum up Vilma's movie, which is scheduled for release in December.

"An actress of her stature does not need cheap gimmicks for her movie to be a box-office hit," she said.

The INQUIRER yesterday called up the Malvar, Batangas, police station to confirm Reyes' statement.

SPO1 Alberto Garing said that as early as 6 p.m. on Wednesday, he already talked with one of Vilma's bodyguards who confirmed that there was indeed no ambush and that the mayor is well.

He said the surge of phone calls reporting the erroneous text message prompted the police station to call the mayor's security staff.

"The mayor is on her way to Manila as we speak," Garing said in Filipino.

Kidnap gives GMA excuse for US troops here

From page A1

joint military exercises could focus on wiping out the threat from the insurgent Communist Party of the Philippines, which the United States this month branded a terrorist group.

"But the kidnapping threat in the South is real and you got to go to, if I may say, the bitter end and eradicate them (the Abu Sayyaf) once and for all," said a Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Professor De Castro said he believed the second phase of the US-Philippine military operation would be "longer" and include efforts to crush the Abu Sayyaf bastion of Jolo.

"The Abu Sayyaf group in Jolo is a tougher nut to crack compared to Basilan," he said.

The Jolo faction has kidnapped scores of hostages, including foreigners from the Sipadan resort in Malaysia in April 2000. Millions of dollars in ransom money reportedly changed hands before the captives were freed.

It is believed that many of the bandits who came under fire during the first RP-US military operation in Basilan escaped south and regrouped in Jolo.

Pichay's vice chair in the House committee, Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo II, urged military and defense officials to evaluate the information from the field so that they could recommend measures such as the holding of the RP-US war games in Sulu and other parts of the country.

Pichay said the first Balikatan was held in Basilan because at that time American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham were still being held captive by the Abu Sayyaf. "They forgot that there are other areas where the Abu Sayyaf are present, including Sulu," Pichay said.

But Lanao del Norte Rep. Benasing Macarambon proposed, tongue in cheek, that Balikatan should also be held in Metro Manila, because there were more kidnappings in the capital than the rest of the country combined.

"And maybe we can ask the Americans to also help us contain our garbage and traffic problems," Macarambon said. ***With a report from Juliet Javellana***

Malacañang keeps mum on abduction of Witnesses

From page A1

napping of six Jehovah's Witnesses in Patikul, Sulu, on Tuesday.

"The policy is not to comment on ongoing operations," Bunye said.

In June, President Macapagal-Arroyo declared the Abu Sayyaf a spent force, following the reported killing of bandit leader Abu Sabaya in a sea encounter off Zamboanga del Norte.

Bunye said that the Palace was not imposing a news blackout but that developments would have to be given to media by "men in the field."

He declined to answer the question whether Malacañang felt embarrassed that the Abu Sayyaf had suddenly come back from the dead.

"We'll refrain from commenting on that for the meantime," Bunye said. Asked for the President's comment on the newest incident, he replied: "The President has not made any comment."

Bunye also avoided the question about the possible redeployment of troops—earlier pulled out of Sulu and Basilan to conduct operations against the communist-led New People's Army in other parts of the country—back in Abu Sayyaf territory.

"We'd like men in the field to comment on that," Bunye said again.

He said the government was determined to end this new hostage situation, citing Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' trip to Sulu "to look into the situation."

Kidnap statistics

Compared to the first seven months of 2001, the total number of kidnapping incidents this year fell by half, to 47, the PNP said. Only six foreigners were kidnapped from January to July, a 57-percent drop from last year, police figures also revealed.

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson, attributed the steep drop in the number of Chinese-Filipino victims and the incidents, as a whole, to the government's drive against kidnappers.

"It only shows that the government is gaining headway in its anti-kidnap drive," he told reporters.

Since ordering the creation of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) in July, Ms Macapagal has been keeping a high-profile stance against kidnappers and organized crime groups. Pacer has conducted a series of operations and busted major kidnap groups.

Police documents showed that only 11 Chinese-Filipinos were abducted in the seven-month period, or two-thirds fewer than the 30 Chinese-Filipinos kidnapped from January to July last year. Bataoil pointed out that the growing cooperation between the Chinese community and the authorities in averting kidnappings had helped reduce the number of incidents.

There were a total of 30 Filipinos victimized by kidnappers—almost thrice the number of Chinese-Filipino victims.

Of the reported incidents, only two occurred in July, including that of Princess Nicole Castillo who was snatched by her biological father and another man in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, on July 21. Pacer agents rescued the 2-year-old Castillo and arrested her father, Albert Batac and his cohort, in a series of operations in Metro Manila two days later.

"The Pacer is doing a good job," Teresita Ang-See of the Citizens' Action Against Crime had said of the crime body, headed by PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. himself.

According to Ang-See, the Pacer has cracked at least five of the 21 kidnap-for-ransom groups, which the President had ordered neutralized during the anti-kidnapping summit in Manila on July 9.

Those busted included the Villaver group, a subgroup of the Fajardo KFR group, and the Lucido-Estillore group, a subgroup of the Bucala KFR group. The Fajardo and the Bucala syndicates have been tagged as the top two kidnap gangs.

Critics have charged that police figures do not reflect the true situation as many families of kidnap victims do not report the abductions for fear their loved ones may be harmed or because they suspect military or policemen may be involved in the crime. ***With a report from AFP***

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GMA wants SSS head to be next BIR chief

From page A1

When interviewed, the SSS president refused to comment. She neither confirmed nor denied that she had been asked to take over the BIR, after Rene Bañez quit on Monday.

A top government official who requested anonymity said Dela Paz was the obvious choice as the next BIR chief because of her integrity, expertise, and management skills.

"She is a good manager. She was able to calm down the people in the SSS and appears to have forged a good relationship with the bureaucracy there. She not only stabilized the internal conditions in the SSS but she was able to pursue the reforms very quietly. This speaks of her very good skills as a manager which we hope she could bring to the BIR," said the official.

The plan, said the same source, was to first get the approval of Dela Paz and then find a new SSS president before formally announcing the changes.

Cory's time

Dela Paz was first asked to head the BIR during the time of former President Corazon Aquino. She was asked again during the early days of the Macapagal administration.

Dela Paz said this administration alone had offered her at least seven positions including heading the energy department, under which her late husband Wenceslao dela Paz served as chair of the National Power Corp. in 1992.

She agreed to join the government for the first time in August last year, when Vitaliano Nañagas II resigned as SSS chief after encountering problems with a bureaucracy that opposed his management style and took to the streets to seek his ouster.

Bañez had a similar fate in the BIR. His management style was opposed by bureaucrats who allegedly sabotaged his collection efforts—leading to a P133-billion shortfall in the bureau's revenues in the first seven months of the year. Bañez, who recommended the dismissal of at least 40 members of his staff during his 19-month leadership in the BIR, was temporarily replaced by Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison.

But while there are people who believe that Dela Paz could be convinced to transfer to the BIR, there are also those who think otherwise.

Donald Dee, an SSS commissioner and a good friend of Dela Paz, said the SSS chief was wise enough to reject the offer.

"I don't think she will take that. Actually, *naaawa ako sa kanya* (I pity her) so I don't want her to accept the offer because I don't think that the people in the BIR can be handled. This is without prejudice to the qualifications and integrity of Cora," said Dee, who is also president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines.

But Dee said that if Dela Paz accepted the BIR position, she could rely on strong support from the business community.

"She has worked so hard to build her name and career at *ayokong sirain siya ng mga tao sa BIR* (and I don't want BIR employees to ruin her reputation). But if she decides to accept it, we would definitely support her," said Dee.

Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club, said that Dela Paz was highly qualified for the position. But like Dee, he expressed concern for the SSS chief.

"If they get her, they must be able to back (her) up. If not, forget it. We have seen instances when the government was not solid in its support and it would just be harder to convince good people to join the government. Look at what happened first to Nañagas, then to Bañez," Luz said.

Dee said that getting Dela Paz to head the BIR would only create a vacuum in a government institution that was as important as the internal revenue agency.

Luz agreed, saying the government must instead transfer Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo to the BIR since he was already used to the workings of the bureaucracy.

"It would be easier to find a replacement for the customs. Maybe, they should bring back Willie Parayno and move Bernardo to BIR," Luz suggested.

If Dela Paz does accept the offer, she will be assuming the role that one of her own trainees had vacated. Bañez worked for 13 years with Joaquin Cunanan & Co./Price Waterhouse Coopers, which used to be headed by Dela Paz. She was the first woman chair of the accounting firm.

"I was the one who brought Rene to the firm when he was a young lawyer and he worked with us for 13 years," she recalled.

Trust the system

In a statement, President Macapagal-Arroyo appealed to the business sector to continue to trust the tax payment system despite the discovery of the hundred-million-peso tax diversion scam.

She nonetheless urged businessmen to pay their taxes directly to the government using the newly instituted e-payment system.

"I understand that the discovery of the tax diversion case at the Landbank has caused anxiety about the integrity of the tax payment system," Ms Macapagal said in the statement issued yesterday.

"I would like to reassure large and small taxpayers that banks are now equipped to take your payments either on the basis of e-filing or e-payment system for large taxpayers and through the debit payment system for non-large taxpayers," she went on.

The e-payment system, which the BIR instituted on Aug. 1, automatically credits tax payments to the Bureau of Treasury, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

He said the e-payment system is "more fool-proof" and "more convenient."

The accredited banks include the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Union Bank.

In Congress, three congressmen are set to file next week a bill proposing amendments to a newly filed bill that seeks to replace the Bureau of Internal Revenue with an Internal Revenue Management Authority (Irma).

Bulacan Rep. Willie B. Villarama said yesterday that BIR officials were helping him and Representatives Aniceto Saludo and Prospero Nograles in crafting their proposed "Irma 2."

Villarama said Irma 1 failed to provide for the compensation of BIR employees who will be eased out as a result of the abolition of the BIR.

Irma 2, he said, will address the compensation and retirement of BIR employees, among others. ***With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Christine Avendaño and Agnes Donato***

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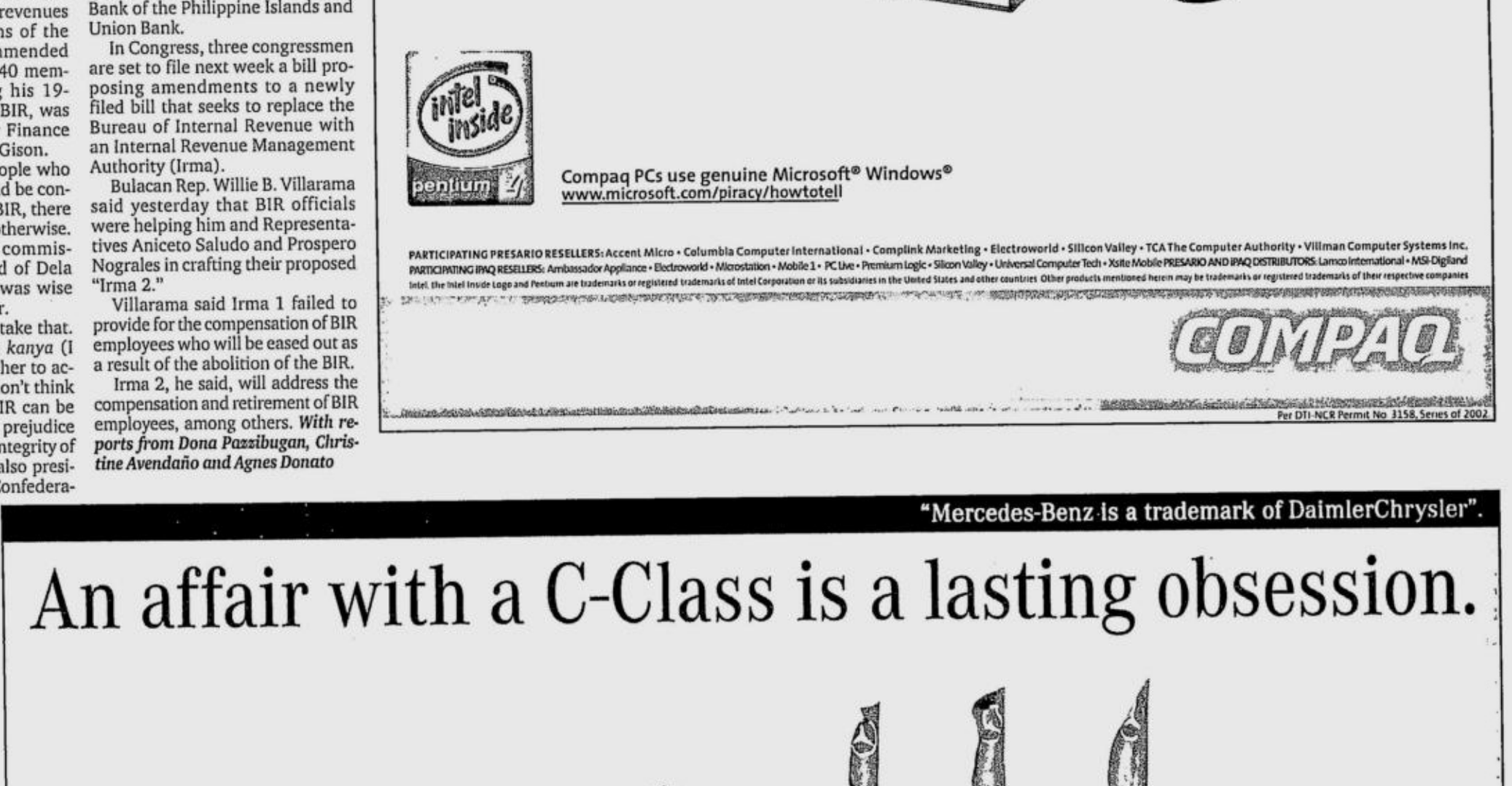

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Gov't asked to appeal Swiss court ruling unfreezing Velasco accounts

By Donna S. Cueto

FORMER solicitor general Francisco Chavez has urged the Philippine government to bring before the Swiss Federal Supreme Court the case of the $17 million in alleged Marcos crony funds that was "unfrozen" by a Zurich magistrate.

Chavez said the ruling could be "dangerous" to the Philippines' efforts to recover other Marcos crony funds.

The High Court of Zurich had upheld the decision of controversial Swiss district attorney Dieter Jann releasing the funds, despite a Philippine government appeal for a continued freeze on the deposits of Marcos energy minister Geronimo Velasco, his nephew Alfredo de Borja and his secretary Carmencita Clavecilla.

The Zurich Court of Appeals upheld Jann's ruling on June 14, according to Weltwoche, a Zurich newspaper.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government has remained mum on the subject.

A source said the PCGG was not likely to appeal the unfreezing of the funds before the Swiss Federal Supreme Court, because an appeal might be more detrimental to the Philippine government's case.

A PCGG official said it would just ask the Zurich court to direct the Swiss bank that held the Velasco funds, Union Bancaire Privee, to explain why it allowed the $17 million in funds to be withdrawn.

Chavez said the Swiss court ruling could be used as a precedent by other Marcos cronies to seek the release of their funds still in Switzerland.

LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD....

not lies and misleading claims by a self-appointed spokesman of the nation... who has not done anything but desperately howl and wantonly repeat false allegations through paid advertisements and press releases..

MASO's LIE : PIATCO is paying the government an extremely insignificant amount of P 2.2. million which is not even 1% of the guaranteed payment

FACT : To date - and even prior to commercial operations - PIATCO has paid the Government a total of P 780 million for the NAIA IPT 3 Project.

On Aug. 24, 1997, PIATCO handed BCDA a check of P 180 Million

By June 15, 2001, PIATCO had already paid the Government an additional P 300 Million, with a significant portion thereof having been paid by PIATCO in advance in the form of (a) payments made in behalf of the Government to the Government's Quality Assurance Inspector, and (b) PIATCO's assumption of the Government's obligation to clear the site. The check PIATCO delivered to the Government on June 15, 2001, was only P 2.2. Million because PIATCO paid the bulk even earlier than the deadline

By June 14, 2002, PIATCO had already paid the Government an additional P 300 Million. The check PIATCO delivered to the Government on June 14, 2002, was P 291.29 Million because PIATCO paid the remainder even earlier than the deadline.

MASO LIE: PIATCO's deductions from the guaranteed payments were not legal.

FACT : PIATCO never made deductions from the Annual Guaranteed Payments to Government. In fact, PIATCO made advance payments.

PIATCO has always strictly complied with the payment procedures under its contract with the Government. Both the arrangement for the payments to the Quality Assurance Inspector and the arrangement for the clearing of the site are duly sanctioned ICC-NEDA- approved and Amended and Restated Concession Agreement (refer Sec. 05[a]) and 5.04-A[c]). The implementation of these arrangements is fully documented and transparent.

The only reason PIATCO had to clear the site in the second half of the Year 2000 was the Government's failure to deliver clean possession by September 30, 1998 as per contract.

The Office of the Ombudsman has already rejected any claim by MASO of irregularities in PIATCO's payment to the Government.

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ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

JOSEPH Yeo of La Salle (with ball) struggles against Cyrus Baguio of UST prior to banging home the triple that sent the La Salle-UST game overtime yesterday. The Archers erased an 18-point deficit to win, 91-89.

18-POINT DEFICIT

La Salle survives UST in OT

GAMES SATURDAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
2 p.m—FEU vs UP
4 p.m.—UE vs Ateneo

By Dennis U. Eroa

BRIMMING with confidence, titleholder La Salle escaped with a magical 91-89 win in overtime over fast-tiring University of Santo Tomas yesterday, extending the Green Archers' winning run to nine in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Archers refused to bend to the dictates of their ferocious foes, wiping out an 18-point deficit , 67-49, early in the fourth quarter, before reducing the Tigers' roars into whimpers with their trademark finishing kick.

Acrobatic Mike Cortez played with heavy legs in the first three periods, but rediscovered his fiery self in the fourth as he exploded with 16 points.

But it was Joseph Yeo who stood tallest at crunch time when he fired the triple that forced the overtime, 82-82.

Everything seemed right at the start for UST as coach Aric del Rosario's Growling Tigers forced the Archers to grope for shots.

The Tigers, who set the UAAP record of the longest winning streak at 14 in 1993, had their fans roaring in delight with a 10-0 start, a lead which they zealously protected behind the snipings of Cyrus Baguio, Niño Gelig and Jemal Vizcarra.

But the Tigers, who dropped to 5-4, weren't up to the task of stopping the Archers. As Cortez glided for baskets and sank triples with impunity, the Tigers lost their composure and committed one boner after another.

After a Christian Luanzon turnover, Mika Vainio attacked the baseline, 79-82, 53 ticks left.

It was downhill from there for España-based dribblers, who last beat the Archers in Game One of the 1999 championship series.

After swapping misses, Yeo gave La Salle the upper hand, 84-82. Not even a three-pointer by Derick Hubalde in the ensuing play could save the Tigers from another humiliating collapse.

Obviously tired, Baguio, UST's one-man army who earlier missed two charities, tied the game for the final time with a split, 86-86, 1:31 left.

La Salle sealed UST's doom when Junjun Cabatu laid up following a Vainio steal. After a split by Yeo, Cortez scored after a crossover move for La Salle's 91-87 bubble, 15 seconds remaining.

UST still managed to cut La Salle's lead to 91-89 through Baguio's charities. But the Tigers fell into a mental lapse when they virtually allowed Yeo to dribble away the final 10 seconds of the game.

"Never underestimate the hearts of the Archers. We're sleepwalking in the first three periods, but we didn't quit. I was looking for the right combination and when we made a run, I felt UST failed to take the pressure," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

Starters Mark Cardona and Adonis Sta. Maria fouled out at the start of the fourth, while slotman Manny Ramos injured his knee in the first quarter. But La Salle's deep bench kept the Archers' offense rolling.

La Salle's victory overshadowed National University's 98-92 win over Adamson in the first game.

Scores:

NU 98—Napa 43, Bagulon 10, Grijaldo 9, Cajayon 7, Mendoza 7, urbano 6, Santico 4, Tolentino 4, Balijon 0, Miclat 0.

ADAMSON 92—Tiongco 21, Tagupa 18, Abadia 15, Mangulabnan 13, Catabay 4, Mamaclay 6, Gandarosa 5, Ferrer 4, Alonzo 4, Sinco 0.

Quarters: 22-12, 44-35, 68-58, 98-92.

LA SALLE 91—Yeo 24, Cortez 20, Cardona 10, Wilson 8, Cabatu 7, Sharma 6, Sta. Maria 5, Vainio 4, Manalo 3, Villanueva 2, Gavino 2.

UST 89—Baguio 25, Espiritu 13, Luanzon 12, Gelig 11, Vizcarra 11, De Guzman 8, Hubalde 6, Raterta 2, Manching 1, Del Rosario 0.

Quarters: 15-17, 31-39, 49-61, 82-82 (reg), 91-89.

Letran, Mapua fight for survival

By June Navarro

Standings	W	L
St. Benilde	9	2
SSC	9	2
JRU	7	4
PCU	7	4
Letran	4	6
Mapua	4	6
San Beda	1	9
UPHR	1	9

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs San Beda (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs UPHR (srs/jrs)

LETRAN and Mapua fight for survival when they go up against separate rivals today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Knights face the victory-deprived San Beda Red Lions while the Cardinals tackle the skidding University of Perpetual Help-Rizal Altas.

Victories for Letran and Mapua will keep their Final 4 hopes alive.

Defending champion San Sebastian College and College of St. Benilde have already grabbed the first two seats in the playoffs on the strength of their 9-2 win-loss records.

Philippine Christian University and Jose Rizal University are not far behind, needing two victories to jack up their identical 7-4 slates.

The Knights' chances dimmed after they bowed to the Stags, 74-59, on Monday, a week after beating the Dolphins in overtime, 83-73.

Selecta-RP sweeps Chinese

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—The Selecta-RP Team again found the Chinese-Taipei national squad an easy target last night, completing its domination of the visitors with an 82-56 romp before a wildly-cheering crowd at the Ynares Center here.

"They are husky and strong inside but the 1998 Philippine team is better experience-wise," said Chinese-Taipei national coach Chien I-fei of the Nationals through an interpreter.

RP coach Jong Uichico agreed with Chien's observation but stressed that unlike the Centennial squad, his wards concentrate more on defense rather than maximize their efforts on offense.

Uichico's boys will face the Melbourne Tigers of Australia in another pair of tune-up games beginning Aug. 29.

Asi Taulava, Danny Ildefonso and Eric Menk made their Taiwanese counterparts look like midgets as they engineered an easy breakaway in the first half.

Scores:

SELECTA-RP 82—Taulava 15, Seigle 15, Castillo 13, Ildefonso 10, Menk 10, Carlaso 6, A.Seigle 4, Duremdes 3, Fernandez 3, Racela 2, Hatfield 1, Jackson 0, Pennisi 0.

CHINESE-TAIPEI 56—Yang 10, T. Wu 10, C. Wu 6, Chou 6, Chen 6, Tien 5, Tseng 4, Chiu 4, Ho 3, Chou 2, Lee 0.

Quarters: 20-9, 46-20, 66-40, 82-56.

Ray of hope

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

AS I keep telling friends, the strength of the Philippine basketball team to the Busan Asian Games is still suspect. Even its weaknesses are still unknown.

The true test for our players will only be known when they finally do battle in the Asiad on Sept. 29 to Oct. 14.

Their just-ended, two-game stint against the Chinese-Taipei team was but a Mickey Mouse performance for Jong and his team. Their lopsided wins were circus stuff. You take them seriously and you'll be accused of having watched an opera, not a carnival.

Even those who continue to ridicule the team's performance in the PBA are nothing but pseudo experts in basketball. Wake up, fellas. The team's PBA stint was but a clutch of mock battles. Very *balikatan*-like.

To be sure, Jong Uichico's Daring Dozen played in the PBA not to win but to unlearn PBA rules that are not needed in the Busan Asiad.

Asian basketball rules are completely different from that of the PBA's in that the Asiad uses Fiba amateur rules; they sharply contrast from those being used by the PBA for 27 seasons now.

In short, Jong's chief focus since his team was formed has been to relearn the nuances of amateur basketball. The Asiad is all Fiba and has no PBA rules at all.

Nothing new here. Tim Cone's Centennial Team in 1998 in the Bangkok Asiad had a similar mission: Relearn Fiba rules. The PBA even sent coach Tim's Team to the United States to retrace the path to amateurism. The squad "lost" several times to different teams from various American cities. But in defeat, the boys emerged richer in experience; Tim's Team salvage third place in Bangkok.

The bronze finish in Bangkok wasn't that bad, considering that Tim did not have tall and hefty Fil-Ams in his lineup. In contrast, Jong's squad now teems with Fil-Ams—almost all of them terribly talented.

Do you know that Tim's middle then was mainly manned by Marlou Aquino? And Aquino is not even in Jong's lineup now—an indication of how deep Philippine talent has become four years after Bangkok.

So, let me say it again: The twin games we just had against Chinese-Taipei should not be used as gauge to the worthiness of Jong's team. Include the recent trip to Italy, where Jong's wards won but one of four matches—against Ukraine (lost twice to Italy, once to Latvia).

The opposition in Italy and the puny resistance of Chinese-Taipei are immaterial to Jong's estimation. What is material is the extent of knowledge his boys had picked up from both stints.

Is their re-education to the vagaries of amateur play already sufficient to give them the impetus to surpass that third-place finish in Bangkok?

Whatever your answer is, we must admit Jong's joyous result against the visiting Chinese has given us a ray of hope.

If ever, it was ego massage at its best.

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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

San Mig tackles Red Bull as PBA semis get going

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY (Ynares Center)
5:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk N Text
7:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel Beer

DEFENDING champion Red Bull and San Miguel Beer open their best-of-seven semifinal showdown today in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

The Thunder-Beermen collision at 7:30 p.m. follows the other semifinal encounter pitting the Alaska Aces against the Talk N Text Phone Pals at 5:30 p.m.

Batang Red Bull has the edge after defeating San Miguel Beer in the eliminations and clinching last year's Commissioner's Cup crown, also at the expense of the Beermen.

Furthermore, the Thunder had a lot of rest after easily downing Shell Turbo Chargers, 73-54, more than a week ago, while the Beermen went the full route against the Coca-Cola Tigers in the quarterfinals.

The Phone Pals, who eliminated the Realtors by virtue of their 80-70 win on Sunday night, are bent on exploiting the burned-out Aces, who escaped with an 82-67 victory over the FedEx Express the other day.

Cebu cagers enter final 8

CEBU'S M. Lhuillier quashed a late Homer Mercado rally to prevail, 83-80, and gain a quarterfinal berth in the 4th Danny Espiritu Cup Invitational Open basketball tournament Wednesday night at the Lyceum gym.

The Cebuanos notched their fourth win in seven games and joined defending champion Spring Cooking Oil (5-2), Homer (4-3) and Forward Taguig in the next stage.

Frontrunning Hartman Seigle (6-1) and ML Kuarta Padala (5-2) gained outright entry into the semifinals and, more importantly, twice-to-beat advantages against their rivals.

Spring and Taguig as well as Lhuillier and Homer Mercado were still playing at presstime to determine the two other semifinalists in the tourney sponsored by Spring Margarine, Morning Star Tours & Travel, Red Bull, SMB, Alaska Milk, Talk N Text, FedEx, Coca-Cola, Shell, Purefoods, Sta. Lucia Realty and Ginebra San Miguel and supported by Milo, adidas and Cebu Pacific.

The winners of the Spring-Taguig and Lhuillier-HM games will face Kuarta Padala and Hartman Seigle, respectively.

The scores:

M. Lhuillier 83—Ocanada 25, Jaka 15, White 13, Manigo 9, Rodriguez 6, Reyes 5, Almonte 4, Enriquez 3, Fernandez 2, Echavez 1.

H-M 80—Saygo 23, Baltazar 13, Mercado 13, Andaya 7, Habelito 6, Medenilla 6, Noblezada 4, Lomboy 3, Federico 2, Conmigo 2, Torrente 1.

Halftime: 38-37

Nat'l duckpin meet slated

THE Philippine Duckpin Bowling Council's 28th National Open championships will stake gift certificates worth P300,000 on Aug. 24 to Sept. 1 at the Puyat Sports Center in Starmall along Edsa.

PHIDBC president Inez G. Magbaul said competitions will be conducted in four events—team singles, (classes A/B) and singles (class C) for men and ladies and mixed doubles.

Major prizes are P35,000 and P30,000 for the men's and ladies' team champions, respectively; P12,000 each for A/B singles winners, P10,000 each for C singles topnotchers and P10,000 for the mixed doubles titlists. All prizes are in the form of gift certificates.

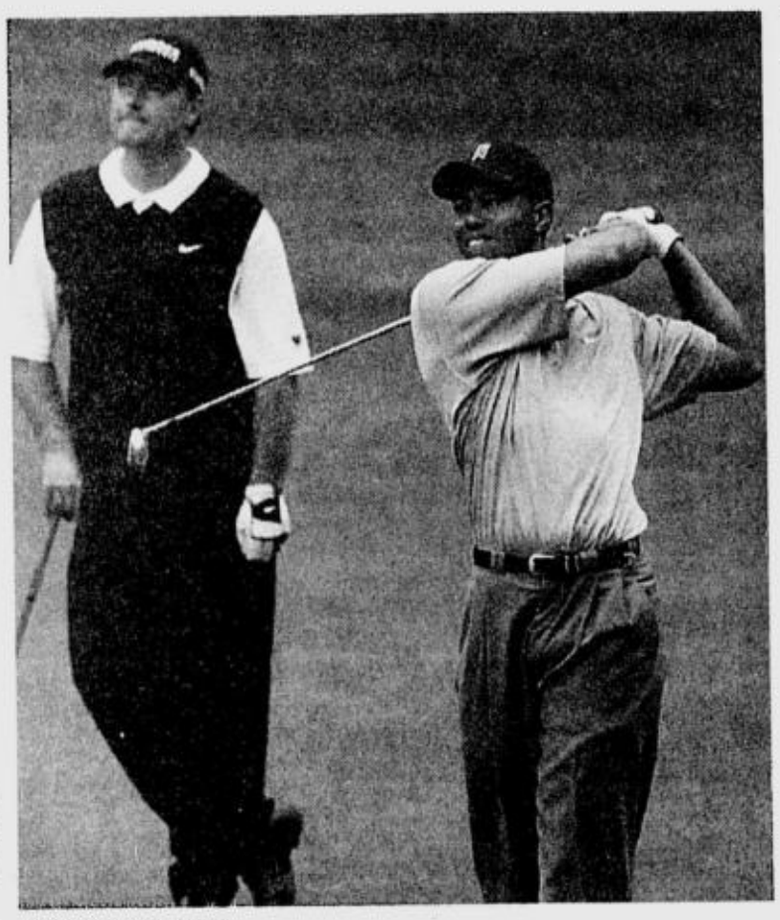
There will also be individual and team awards.

All duckpin bowlers and teams, whether or not they're PHIDBC affiliates, are invited to participate. Six weeks after the nationals, the Negros Professional Bowlers Club headed by Raul Corteza will host the National Invitational in Bacolod City.

Competition will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. tomorrow, 10 a.m. to 12 midnight on Aug. 25 to 29, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Aug. 31 and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sept. 1.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1988, Arturo Macapagal shot 575 points to smash his own RP mark of 573 in the second leg of the elimination round for the national shooting team at the Marine Range in Fort Bonifacio.



HOT FAVORITE
Three-time defending champion and top favorite Tiger Woods (right) watches his shot during practice for the NEC Invitational World Golf Championships on Wednesday at the Sahalee Country Club in Sammamish, Washington. Looking on is fellow American golfer John Cook. Woods is trying to become the first player in 75 years to win the same event four years in a row. The tournament starts today. AFP

Quiazon's Asiad stint questioned

By Jong Arcano

RIA Denise Quiazon, one of three lady golfers bound for the Asian Games, was discovered yesterday to have elected U.S. citizenship.

MARIO Siodina will tee off at 10 a.m. today in the $600,000 Fancl Seniors Classic at the Susono Country Club near Mt. Fuji in Tokyo. He becomes the first Filipino to play in the three-day tournament that gives the winner $150,000.

The Asiad Task Force said Quiazon, a former national player residing in the U.S., has admitted having turned an American when interviewed after turning 21. The admission was extracted from an internet report in America.

Tats Suzara of the Task Force has asked the National Golf Association of the Philippines to clarify Quiazon's case.

"It's really up to the NGAP to determine if she (Quiazon) is eligible or not to play in Busan," said Suzara. "We just have to make sure that her participation will not give us any problems when we get to Busan."

Quiazon's citizenship was exposed by Aileen Rose Yao, the alternate. Quiazon's teammates to the Asiad are Carmelette Villaroman and Heidi Chua.

Quiazon, who has represented the Philippines in several tournaments abroad while still a Philippine passport holder, is now a golf scholar at the University of California-Berkeley.

Alex Clariño passes away

FORMER national player and PBA veteran Alejandro "Alex" Clarino passed away early Wednesday after a year-long bout with rectal cancer. He was to turn 47 on Monday, Aug. 26.

Django hurdles rival

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante hurdled his first match in the Gabriel Las Vegas Invitational 9-Ball tournament but was extended to five sets by countryman Santos Sambajon in a closely fought match Wednesday.

Bustamante took a 2-1 lead before Sambajon came back to force the deciding set which Bustamante ruled, 5-4, to complete a 3-2 win.

The best-of-five sets (a set is race-to-5) between Bustamante and Sambajon got off with the latter taking the opener, 5-4. Bustamante then won the next two sets, 5-2 and 5-1, before Sambajon made it 2-all by wining the fourth, 5-4.

Bustamante battles American Mike Massay next.

HINGIS rejoices after completing her 7-5, 6-4 victory over Stevenson. AP

Hingis, Mauresmo reach quarterfinals

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut—Martina Hingis of Switzerland outlasted hard-hitting Alexandra Stevenson of the United States, 7-5, 6-4, Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Pilot Pen.

The fifth-seeded Hingis, playing in her second tournament since ankle surgery in May, will face unseeded Anastasia Myskina of Russia in the quarterfinals. Myskina advanced with a 7-6 (2), 6-2 second-round upset over fourth-seeded Belgian Justine Henin.

Amelie Mauresmo of France, the sixth-seeded player, also advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (1) victory over Elena Bovina of Russia. Mauresmo picked up her eighth singles title last week with win over Jennifer Capriati in Montreal.

Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia, the third-seeded player, pulled out because of a sore hamstring. She said she would not be "100 percent" for next week's U.S. Open, where she is seeded fifth. She was scheduled to play Patty Schnyder of Switzerland in a quarterfinal Wednesday night. Martina Sucha of Slovakia, a lucky loser, was rescheduled in her place.

Hingis got as far as the quarterfinals in Montreal. The former No. 1 player said she's gaining confidence with each match. *AP*

Bumgarner winningest karter

M&M KART Racing/Benetton Eyewear's Mark Bumgarner posted four podium finishes in two race classes to emerge the winningest karter in the recent Shell Casino Filipino CIK-FIA Asian zone Open Kart Championship. Bumgarner also backed up elder sister Michelle in the Junior-ICA races, finishing in second and third in two rounds.

The 11-year-old Bumgarner complemented his productive errors in the JICA races with first place finishes in the Cadet 85 class. He also topped the Cadet 85 races where he bested rivals Marty Aguilar, Buffy Laurel and Marlon Stockinger.

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Race 3—1. Rain Check 2. Show Affection 3. Sweet Inspiration
Race 4—1. Sensational 2. Renegade 3. Top Bullet 4. Expresso 5. Golden Prince
Race 5—1. Impeccable 2. Nagniningning 3. Turkish Delight
Race 6—1. Kiss Me Quick 2. Simply Great 3. Steel Wheel 4. Precious Time
Race 7—1. Precious Moment 2. Sweet Topic 3. Hotrod
Race 8—1. Classic Model 2. Time Specialist 3. Shuttle's Magic 4. Maniaman 5. Hinobaan Boy
Race 9—1. Nokaba 2. Court General 3. Firenze Rose 4. Gifted Angel 5. Patago 6. Pep Talk

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Senior PGA Tour Golf Ford Senior Players Championship, Highlights at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Inside the PGA Tour at 11 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
U.S. Amateur Open Golf Championship, Third Round at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN
LPGA Wendy's Championship for Children, First Round at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

Aguilar eyes 2nd victory

CALTEX-Revtex-KTM team top rider Glenn Aguilar guns for his second straight win when the sixth leg of the Superferry National Motocross Series 2002 unfolds on Saturday and Sunday at the El Pueblo Business Center, El Pueblo Township in Cagayan de Oro City.

The six-time national rider of the year missed the third and fourth legs due to a back injury sustained in the second leg, allowing his rivals to capitalize on the opportunity.

But Aguilar, despite coming off at two-month rehabilitation period to heal his injured back, bounced back strongly in the Negros Occidental fifth leg, winning the premier Pro Open category with a consistent ride.

Highlights of hearing on sports

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE HOUSE Committee on Youth and Sports Development chaired by former PSC commissioner and now Bacolod Rep Monico Puentevella has started its hearing to discuss proposed amendments to Republic Act 9064 also known as "Sports Benefits and Incentives Act of 2001" which grants cash and non-monetary rewards to outstanding Filipino athletes, coaches and trainers. This is a step in the right direction, but it does not go far enough, said concerned sectors, including much respected businessman-sportsman Jose "Popit" Puyat, "because only those achievements in quadrennial competitions like the Olympics, Asian Games and World Championships are rewarded." The law omitted achievers in annual and biennial competitions in non-Olympic sports like bowling, golf, billiards and chess where sports heroes like Paeng Nepomuceno, Dorothy Delasin, Efren "Bata" Reyes and Eugene Torre have brought glory and honors to the country.

There should be no discrimination in sports, stressed the position paper submitted to the committee. "Fairness and equality must be applied to our deserving athletes, whose victories in annual and biennial World and Asian sports championships inspire and unify our people no less than medals won in quadrennial competitions."

I attended last Wednesday's committee hearing in behalf of renowned billiards champions Bata Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, who were both out of the country. During the hearing, I appealed to the members of the committee to enact amendments to RA 9064 and extend its coverage by also giving tax-free privileges (for life) to these sports heroes from incomes derived from their prizes, product endorsements, and movie-television appearances. After all, these tax exemptions will not be a drain on the national coffers since there are only a handful of them. More importantly, these tax exemptions will help these athletes a lot upon their retirement, most especially during their hard and difficult times. This is their just reward, I said. The proposal received favorable response from members of the House like Reps. Monico Puentevella and Antonio Abaya, PSC chair Eric Buhain and Commissioner Mike Barredo, a blind sports official who cited by past articles seeking similar rewards for the differently abled athletes. Barredo is the president of the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently Abled (Philspada).

Pasay derby tonight

THE PASAY City Cockpit stages another exciting event tonight—a special 3-cock derby—which offers P150,000 to the winners.

Partners Adjing and Gerry Maningas are hosting the event with an entry fee of P5,500.

Another 3-cock event, also with a pot of P150,000, is slated Aug. 30. Hosts are Dick Ame and Danny Runner.

For inquiries, please call 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Meanwhile, the newly-reorganized Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) with 27 members, will launch the grand 4-stag derby on Sept. 27. This will signal a series of derbies to be promoted by PCCA.

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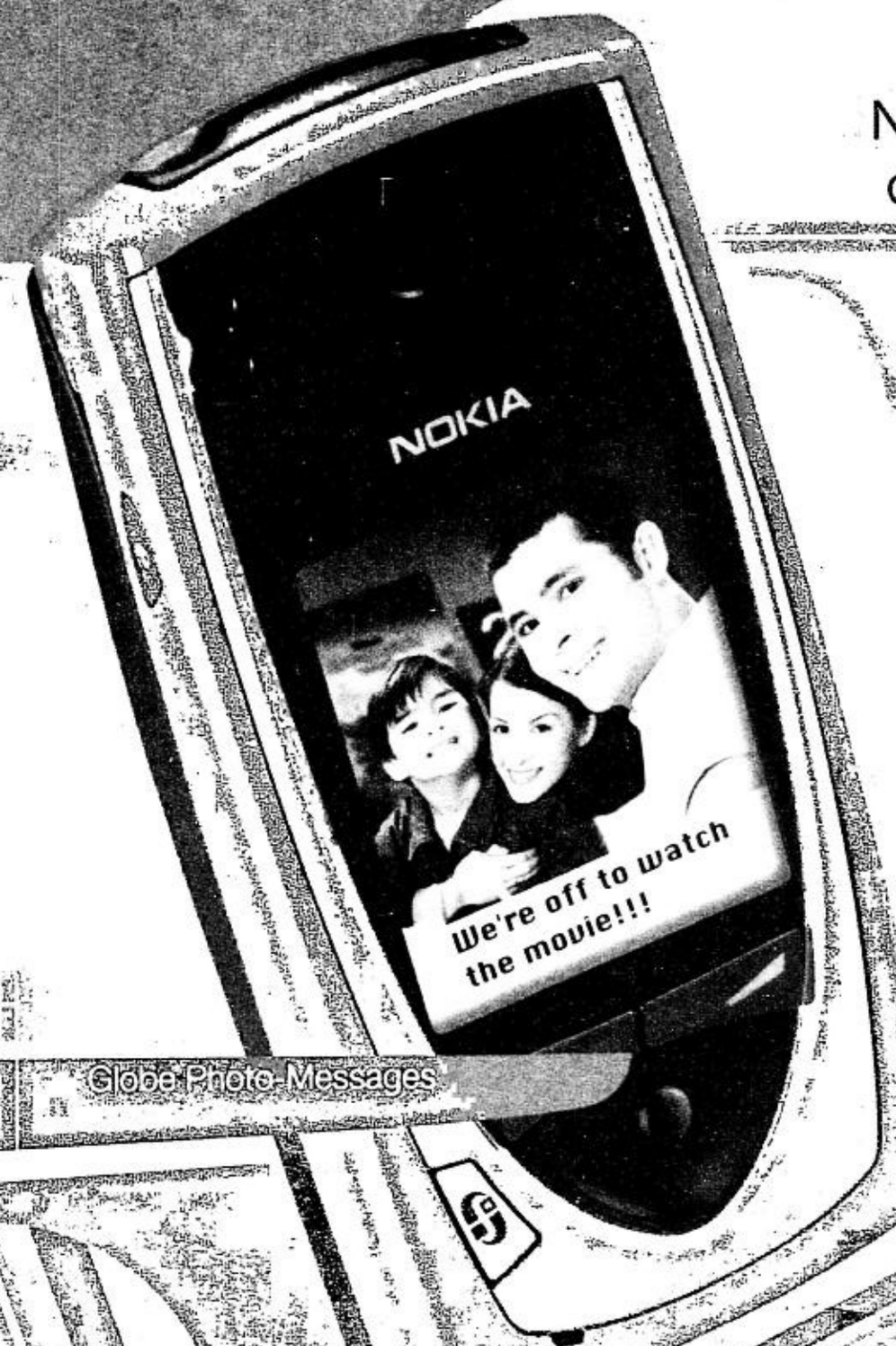

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Fernando is right, says Malacañang

By Dona Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG came to the side of Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando in his row against sidewalk vendors, telling them to clear the sidewalks and sell their wares in public markets like other vendors.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Fernando has the right to use "extreme measures" to enforce the law against illegal obstructions.

"We have to remind our citizens that there are laws in place, and if these were just followed, I don't think we would have to resort to any extreme measures," Bunye said in a news briefing yesterday.

But Bunye refused to comment on Fernando's reported threat to pour kerosene on the goods of vendors who resist eviction.

FERNANDO

Early this week, some sidewalk vendors again staged a rally in front of the MMDA office and accused Fernando of killing off their small business.

Fernando nonetheless went ahead with his drive to clear sidewalks.

The MMDA chair said the street perception that he is oppressing the vendors is wrong.

"In truth, we are trying to put (the vendors) where they properly and legally belong–in the marketplace," he said. "We are not driving them away and depriving them of livelihood."

Fernando told the INQUIRER he does not believe that the vendors, who had to deal with illegal fee collectors, would be paying more if they take up space or occupy stalls in public markets like they should.

He said that in most public markets, there are open spaces and a lot of empty stalls where vendors can set up shop to sell their wares, for which they would have to pay a very minimal fee.

He also requested people not to patronize sidewalk vendors. He said this would only encourage vendors to boldly hawk their wares on the streets and contribute to chaos and disorder.

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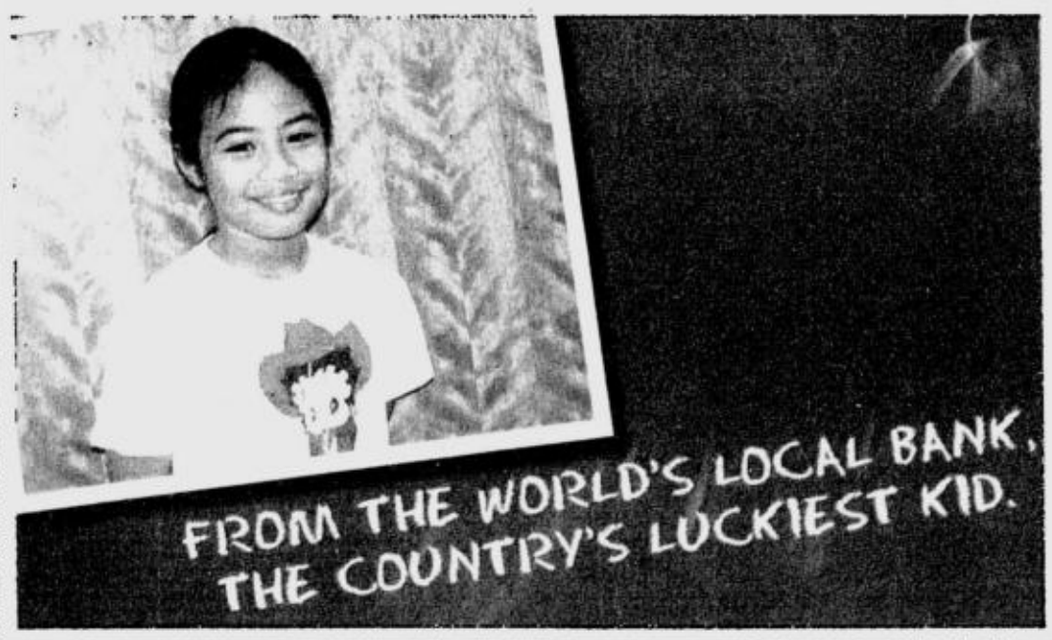

TUITION R FREE

Joanne Mae will surely enjoy school this year --- thanks to her dad winning P100,000 tax-free in HSBC's recently-concluded TUITION-FREE raffle promo. With the prize money, Nolan Ruanto can certainly cover the costs of Joanne's schooling --- and hopefully have some left for himself and the rest of his family.

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Police info office nearly did a GMA

By Nelson Flores

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office yesterday almost fed false information to beat reporters when it issued a press release claiming the arrest of three suspects in last Sunday's Jollibee heist in Pasig City, only to retract the statement later.

The NCRPO's public information office issued a release entitled "Metro cops collar 3 suspects behind Sunday's Jollibee heist in Pasig City" and faxed it to the different press offices in Quezon City and eastern Metro Manila around noon.

An hour after the statement was transmitted, an unnamed NCRPO PIO staff member sent word that some of the contents of the release were erroneous and that the statement should be "put on hold."

In the release, NCRPO chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco lauded Eastern Police District Office director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Sacramento and Pasig City police commander Supt. John Socito for arresting three of the 10 robbers who hit the Manggahan branch of Jollibee on Sunday.

The release also identified those who were supposedly arrested as Bobby Imperial of Napico, Pasig City; Alcher Dialino of BF Homes, Las Piñas City, and Jessie Calda of Tondo, Manila.

But when the Inquirer checked with the EPDO headquarters and the Pasig City police station, there were no reports of such arrests. Even the EPDO PIO does not know what to make of the report.

Pasig police chief Socito said in an interview that he was surprised about the report. He admitted his men have identified the suspects and that they received information about their whereabouts from a taxi driver who was presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang recently. But Socito stressed they still have to arrest the suspects.

He added that with the help of the information from Malacañang, they now have a clear idea where to track the robbers.

Socito also confirmed Dialino and Calda's reported involvement in the Jollibee heist, but said he has no report about Imperial. He said witnesses identified Dialino and Calda as among those who staged the Jollibee heist.

Police records showed that at least 10 armed men barged into the Jollibee branch, disarmed its two security guards and carted off with at least P250,000 cash.

NBI agent falls in entrapment

By Philip C. Tubeza

A MAN who identified himself as a National Bureau of Investigation confidential agent was arrested after he tried to extort P1.7 million from a Korean national.

Lou Atienza, 63, of Euro-Asiatic Shipping firm, with business address Victoria Building, 420 UN Avenue, Manila, was caught in an entrapment operation yesterday morning in Manila.

He produced the identification card of an NBI agent upon interrogation.

South Korean Jay SJ Rhim, 37, a native of Seoul, complained that the suspect took his and his family's travel and work documents and demanded P1.7 million for their return.

NBI investigators said Rhim and Atienza were once business partners.

The victim arrived in the country in June. Rhim and Atienza's common friends then convinced them to undertake a joint venture.

Ironically, their friendship reportedly turned sour when their business became successful.

Rhim allegedly wanted to start his own business.

When Atienza heard about it, he allegedly took the South Korean and his family's travel documents.

Atienza then allegedly demanded P1.7 million for their return. Rhim decided to ask for help from the NBI.

During an entrapment operation yesterday, Atienza was arrested at the Hong Kong Tea House in Manila while receiving P200,000 in marked money.

Atienza was then brought to the NBI headquarters, where he denied that he tried to extort money from Rhim.

He said that the South Korean owed him an overdue loan.

Fire hits AMA computer college

AN ESTIMATED P1 million worth of property went up in smoke after a one hour fire hit AMA Computer College-Sta. Mesa, Manila on Wednesday afternoon.

The blaze hit the computer school, located on the third floor of a three-story-commercial building at 4410 Old Sta. Mesa, Sta. Mesa, Manila, said arson investigator FO3 Rodelio Nelvis, of the Manila fire department.

A fireman, FO3 Oliver Nunez, got bruises on his wrist while trying to put out the conflagration, Nelvis added.

He said the fire started at around 4:38 p.m. Philip Tubeza

Malonzo strikes back

By Tina Santos

CALOOCAN City Mayor Rey Malonzo yesterday lambasted Caloocan 2nd District Rep. Edgar Erice for accusing city government officials of reckless and wasteful spending that left the Malonzo administration on the brink of bankruptcy.

"It is absolutely untrue that the city government is going bankrupt. If this was true, why is Erice so hell bent on wanting to become the mayor of Caloocan?" Malonzo said.

Malonzo, who is on a 10-day official trip to China, made the statement through his lawyer Ellen Veza.

Malonzo belied Erice's allegation that the city government is engaging in reckless and wasteful spending.

On the contrary, he said, Caloocan is now in full swing with various projects.

To further stress his point, Malonzo has quoted Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin who stressed that 'no government ever goes bankrupt.'

"The city government has the power to tax so it is impossible for any local government to go bankrupt. Erice does not know what he is saying. Either that or he is deliberately misleading the people for his own purpose and benefit," Malonzo said.

The city mayor likewise denounced Erice's move of dragging names of city hall officials into "malicious imputations and irresponsible accusations."

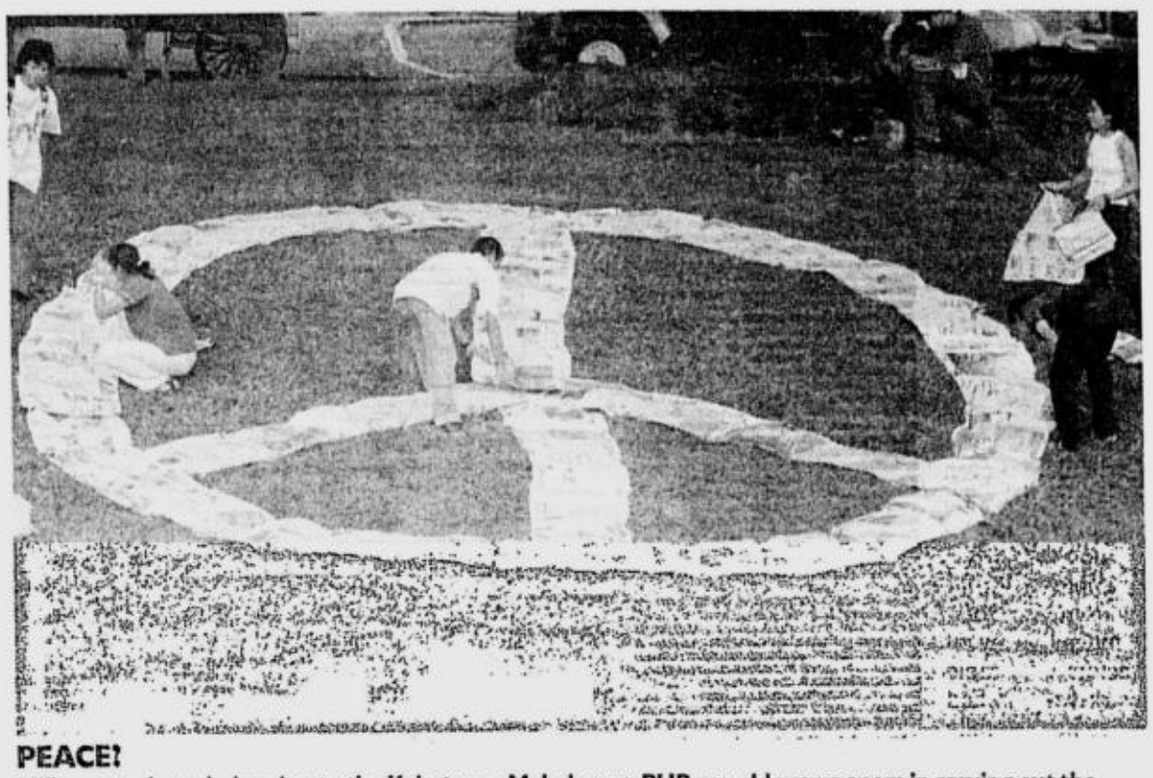
Malonzo said his former ally's accusations were just a case of "grandstanding" and "early politicking."

Instead, Malonzo challenged Erice to file appropriate charges directly against him instead of hitting other city hall officials, particularly Francisco Veza, Secretary to the Mayor, who had allegedly approved questionable disbursement of funds on behalf of Malonzo.

Erice had earlier accused Malonzo of mismanagement and engaging in questionable deals that left the city government burdened with huge debts and obligations.

Erice had earlier urged the Commission on Audit (COA) to immediately investigate the allegedly anomalous disbursement of some P244 million reportedly uncovered in a recent audit conducted by a special task force of the commission.

The solon likewise questioned the P620 million which the local government had borrowed for the construction of a city hospital, a public market and a parking building which he said have all remained unfinished.



PEACE!
Militant students belonging to the Kabataang Makabayan-PUP use old newspapers in carving out the Peace Sign on the campus lawn during yesterday's protest against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administration and the US government, following the classification of the New People's Army as a terrorist group. ERIK ARAZAS

Solar Films sued over Marimar; charges vs producer dropped

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MOVIE version of the once-popular telenovela "Marimar" has caught two entertainment outfits in a legal battle.

Solar Films Inc., a major movie production company, is facing estafa charges before a Makati regional trial court for allegedly refusing to pay Team Image Entertainment Inc. (TIE) around P5 million in film earnings.

In a three-page resolution, prosecutor Hannibal Santillan said there was probable cause to file charges against the company's owners--Wilson, William, Aida, Lucia, and Willy Tieng.

The owners, he said, were "duty-bound" to remit to TIE part of the proceeds of the movie which starred Mexican star Thalia in 1996.

The case is now under the jurisdiction of Judge Tranquil Salvador of RTC Branch 63.

City prosecutors recommended a P40,000 bail for each of the respondents.

Lawyer Froilan Cabaltera, vice president of TIE, had sued the Tiengs after they allegedly failed to comply with the provisions of a joint venture agreement for the movie's exhibition.

Being the exclusive local distributor of Marimar, Solar Films Inc. was tasked to collect the movie's earnings from different theaters nationwide and remit the amount to TIE and three other outfits, according to Santillan's resolution. Solar Films was also entitled to a 15-percent releasing fee.

The total income was then to be equally divided among TIE, RPN 9, Solar Films Entertainment, and Solar Entertainment Corporation.

But the respondents argued that TIE did not deserve any portion of the income since it supposedly did not contribute "a single centavo" in the movie's capital.

"Such rationalization," according to the resolution, "cannot excuse respondents from their obligation to account and remit the proceeds of their collection from the theatrical exhibition of.Marimar."

Meanwhile, it was learned earlier that government prosecutors in a Makati trial court have withdrawn criminal charges against a prominent producer of high-budget concerts and shows

who was accused of fraud by a former business partner.

Trial prosecutor Hannibal Santillan of the Makati City Prosecutors Office said the prosecution has sought the dismissal of fraud charges against Felix Co and his associates Jeffrey Cal, Gerry Cal and Laura Cal because the suit is "an exact replica" of an old case, which the court has already dismissed.

"Fraud could never be presumed but should be proven by clean and competent evidence," Santillan said in a resolution submitted to the court on Aug. 12. "It is undisputed that based on an Affidavit of Desistance dated May 4, 1998, executed by complainant, the court dismissed the case."

The case stemmed from a dispute between Co and his former business partner, Tieng, over alleged claims for payments of advertising spots in television programs they co-produced in 1997. The court dismissed the charges after Tieng submitted an affidavit saying the case was a bookkeeping problem.

But Tieng filed anew the same case against Co in January this year based on the same allegations.

In his motion to withdraw the case against Co, Santillan said the businessman was "never arraigned" even in the first case and "our office found no probable cause to hold the accused liable for the crime charged."

Co has sued Solar Films, owned by Tieng and other members of his family, for alleged failure to remit his share in the theatrical exhibition of 'Marimar'

Curfew proposal for youths approved

A MANILA City Council committee has approved a proposal imposing a daily 10 p.m.-4 a.m. curfew within the capital for all youths below 18 years old.

The nine-member ad hoc committee unanimously backed the curfew bill, according to its author, Councilor Julio Logarta Jr.

Logarta's office yesterday provided the Inquirer a copy of the committee report, which awaits the aldermen's signature.

During the public hearing, the commitee members disagreed about the curfew's imposition even on Friday night, Saturdays and on the night before all holidays, whether regular or special.

Logarta originally wanted the curfew take effect at 1 a.m. on such days, but the committee returend it to 10 p.m. , after consulting parents, the police, teachers, and barangay authorities.

The body ruled that the youths should just secure "curfew passes" from their barangay leaders during those days.

It said it recognizes that youths' right "to enhance and develop their personality through socialization" but there are "many untoward incidents" that may happen to youths on such days.

Aside from those carrying curfew passes, youths are also exempted from the curfew at all times if they are accompanied by their parents, guardians or other elders who are of legal age. *Jerome Aning*

RP team gets guided tour on how to win a game again

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ON Tuesday, I got very excited about a basketball game again.

The Philippine national basketball team to the Asian Games was to play its first game that day after being eliminated from the PBA Commissioner's Cup series.

I made it a point to finish my daily chores earlier than usual.

I walked to the next village, Hulo, to buy fruits and vegetables from the makeshift stalls of poor vendor friends, capped the stroll with a few minutes with the concrete weights, showered, helped prepare and later shared a fat-free lunch, then took my siesta after reading the papers.

I also cancelled two afternoon appointments, including one with my dentist, swept the floor, made sure everything was in place.

I took a big snack, prepared a glass of juice, turned off the cellphone, and had the sala television set all by my lonesome come game time at the Araneta Coliseum.

***

You see, I usually do these preparations only for big world boxing title fights.

But that Philippine Team game had been hyped to loom like a monumental fight for flag and country.

So what if the national squad had been repeatedly humbled, slugged silly and mercifully expelled from the PBA tournament proper?

This would be an entirely new ballgame. Emphasis would be on use of international rules, mainly the ones involving zone play, and there would be premium on teamwork.

In short, the RP squad was expected to perform very differently from the way it had in the PBA.

***

Well, truth is I enjoyed the RP-Taipei match--but only in the first 10 minutes.

This was the exciting stretch when the young, frail Taiwanese dribblers succeeded in drilling in a few nifty three-point shots.

In fact, the visitors, a good half aging 19 years and under, had the luxury of taking a momentary lead.

My excitement was however cut short the moment the burly members of the RP squad started using bulk and experience.

All the RP team needed was one hefty, muscular stretch to turn the outing into a picnic.

In a flash, the hapless, inexperienced Taiwanese were blown out of the court.

***

When the RP team members decided to have a feast, they roared with individualistic sorties and turned the game into horrible mismatch.

The final score on Tuesday was 59-95, but the actual gap was wider than the total count.

If it were, say, in boxing, the game should have been disallowed. Or, if not, stopped midway after the visitors were repeatedly left hanging like laundry on the ropes.

Funny, but the RP team veterans showed no mercy and poured it all against the frail, helpless schoolboys from Taiwan.

Naturally, the homecrowd, savoring the newfound might of the RP squad, roared and lapped up the sweet action.

They could not be blamed. After being a favorite whipping boy in the PBA, the RP team, suddenly appeared ready to carry the national colors in the Asian Games starting next month.

***

Pardon my saying this, but the Taipei team had fed a big national need.

The Nationals badly wanted one and the Taiwanese all too willingly gave them a guided tour to winning again.

The visitors were perfect for the party needs of the RP squad.

The fighting appetite of the RP squad aptly upheld what Shell coach Perry Ronquillo maintained when he said, "the psyche and mentality of the RP team will definitely change, pride will come into play."

All those who went to the Araneta Coliseum appeared to have had a great night.

But we have to repeat what we had to say last time.

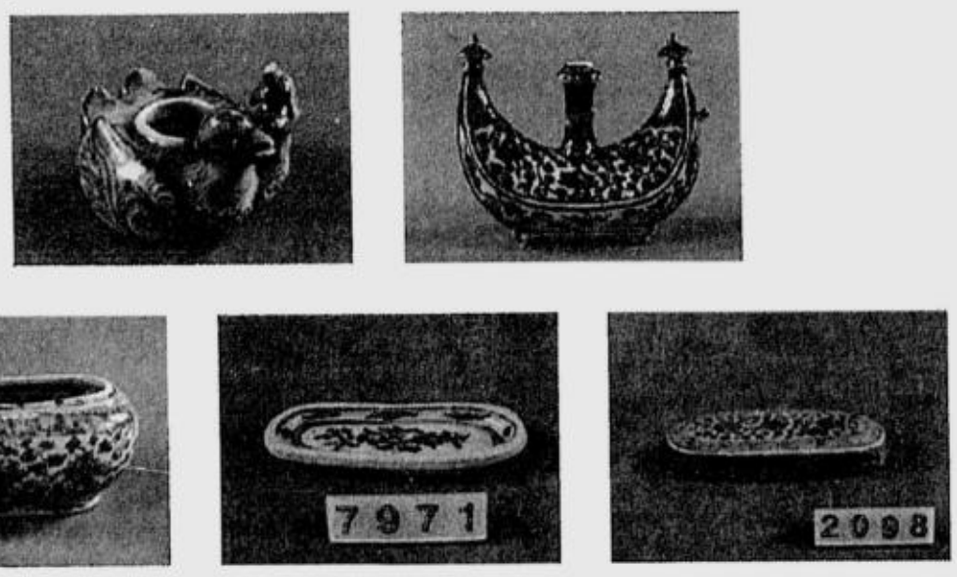
The RP National team cannot properly use the Taipei squad as a mirror in trying to look at itself.

Indeed, our national basketball team had a check-up and promptly passed the aptitude test against the Taiwanese team on Tuesday.

However, you need not be a game expert to know that RP team is still very deficient in several departments.

The National squad must labor doubly hard to find the right cures for these glaring team ills--right now.

The Nationals cannot afford to have another check-up in Busan.



ALARM ON STOLEN CERAMICS
The pictures above show the ceramic items owned by the Philippine government through the National Museum of the Philippines that were stolen from the storage house of the Far Eastern Foundation Nautical Archaelogy (Fefna) in Pasay City. These blue and white porcelain pieces were part of the artifacts retrieved from the Sta. Cruz, Zambales shipwreck dated to the late 15th century. The materials are an important part of our cultural history and should, therefore, be returned to the museum for further study and exhibition. The public is warned from buying these tradeware ceramics since they were stolen. Please report to the National Museum (527-1215) or the National Bureau of Investigation if you have any information about the location of these items or the identity of the persons involved in this theft.

'Signs' star shows signs of faith

From p. A28

Every time you go through a dry spell and you come out the other side of it, man, it just makes you better. I think people throw in the towel too early on relationships.

Did anything mysterious happen during filming? Because when you do a movie like this, sometimes some inexplicable things happen.

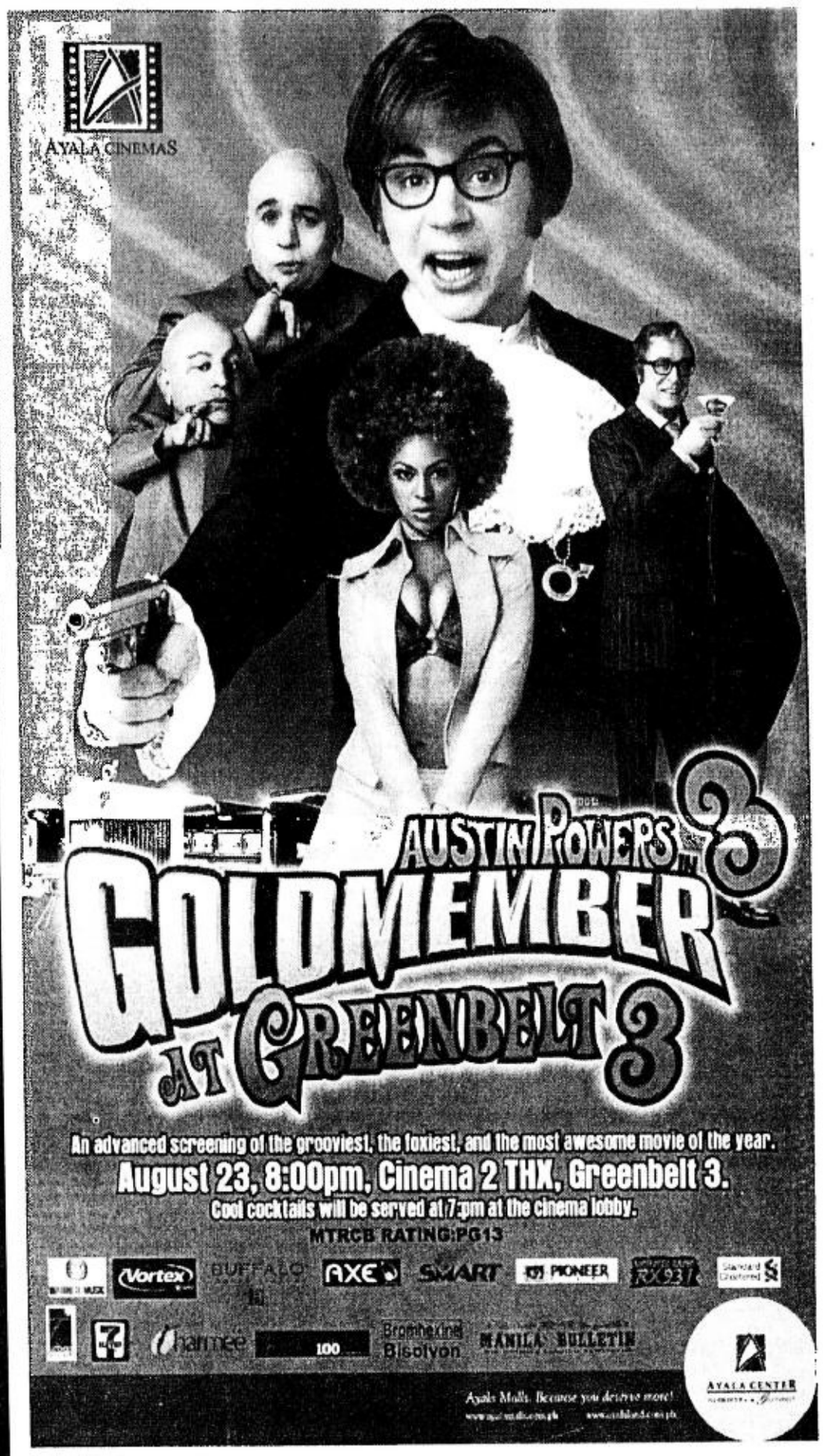
I can't remember anything monumental happening during the filming. The only thing that put a downer on the whole thing was that the whole Sept. 11 thing happened the day before we started shooting. That brought with it a mood that drew a pall over the whole shoot and the kickoff of it.

The director lit candles and said a quiet memorial kind of thing, and then we started shooting. We felt like, man, maybe we shouldn't even work—but we did. We'd gone too far to back up. Pennsylvania's not that far away from New York, and indeed many of the actors who came to work with us had just come literally eight blocks away from there. They came in shock, like actress Cherry Jones, the woman who played the policewoman, saw it.

And oddly, it dawned on me when I was working on the film that the character of Graham Hess was in a perpetual state of shock, and you didn't quite know why he was just a little stunned all the time.

I don't know why I'm talking about all of this, but it's sort of interesting.

Oh, and while we're at it, I'd like to mention my hernia and my hemorrhoids. . .



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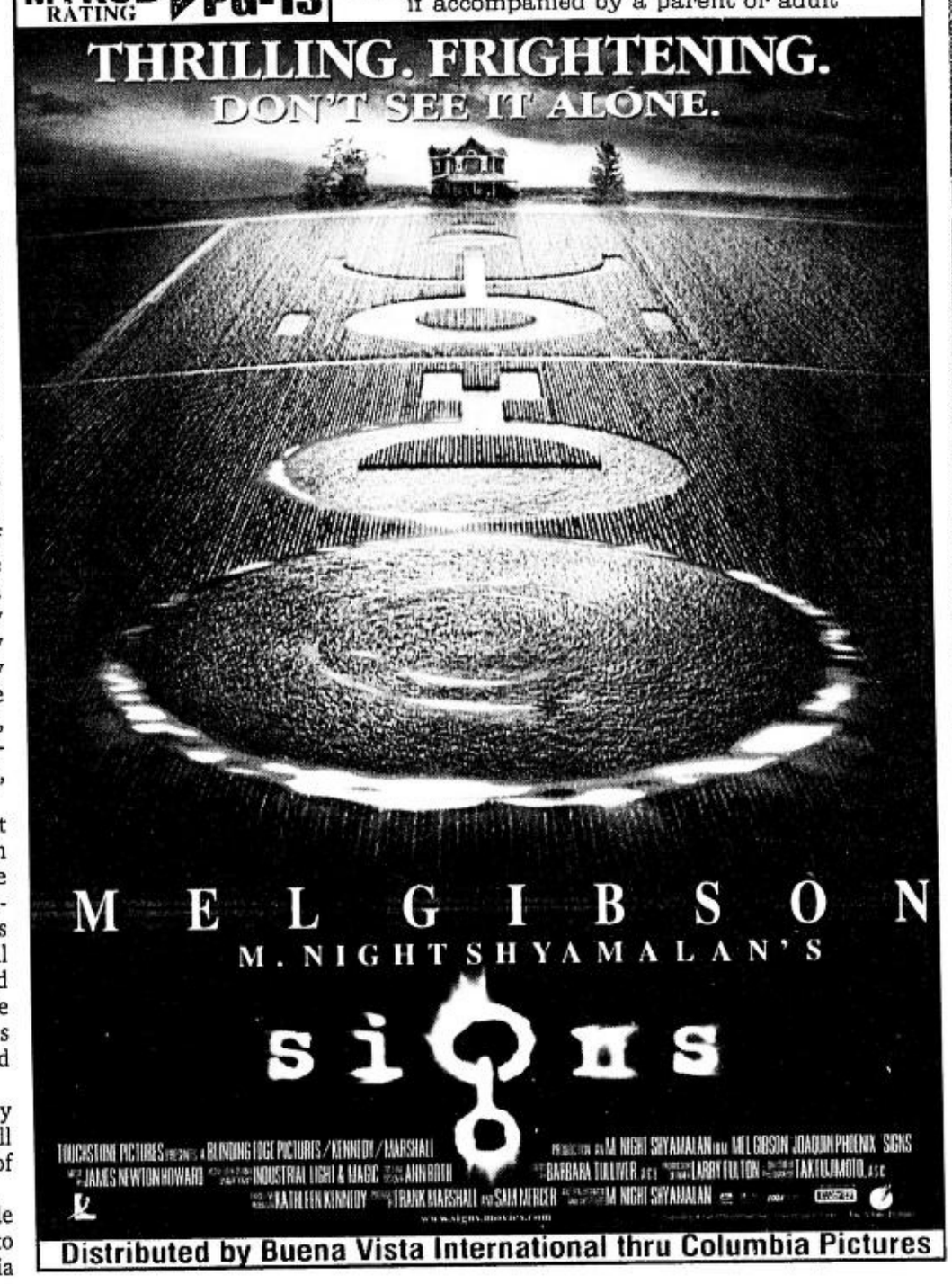

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The film contains some violence which young audiences may find disturbing.
Parents and guardians are cautioned against bringing children 13 years old and below.

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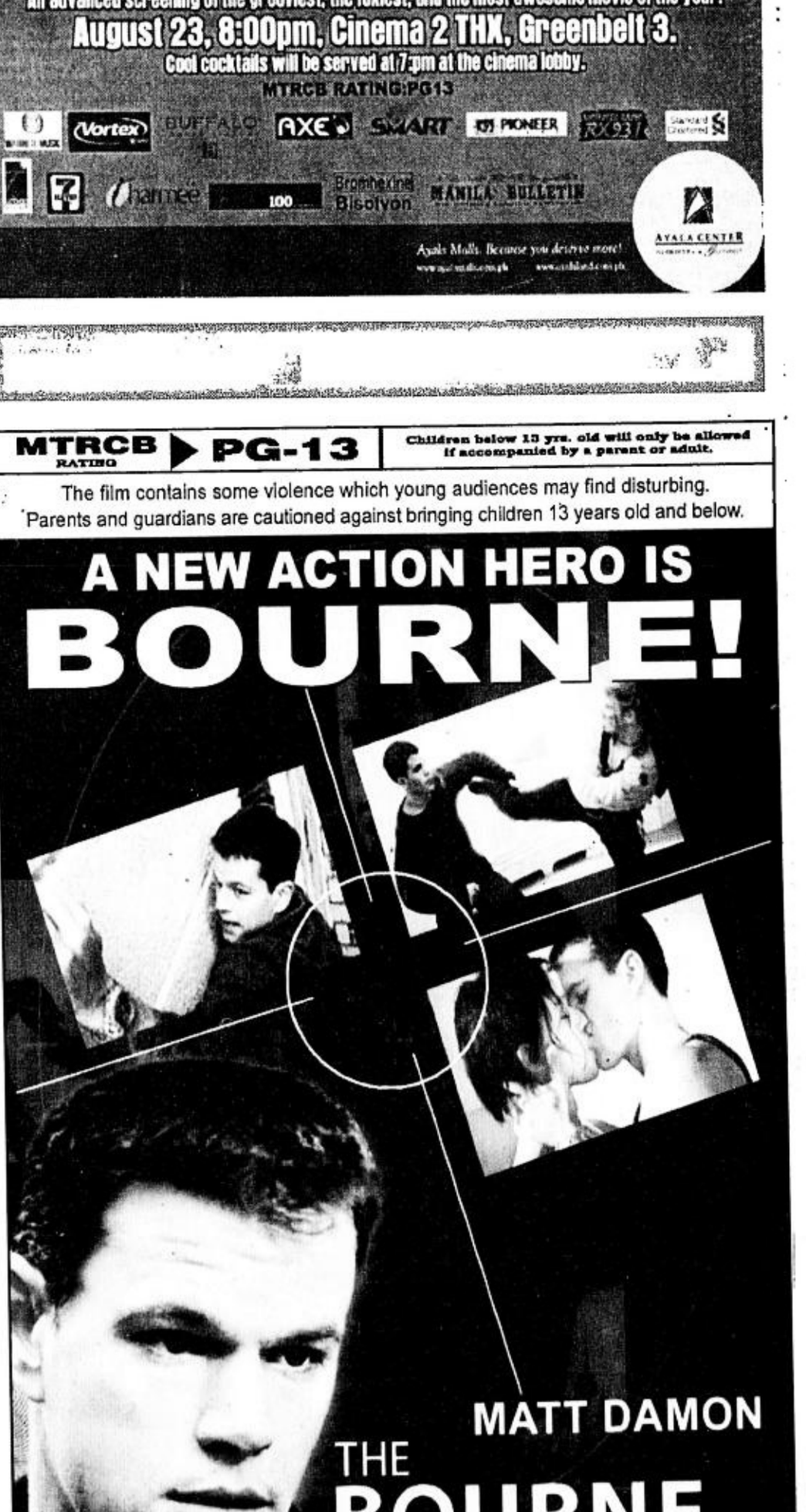

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I'll never be like Gary V, says Paolo V

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

GARY Valenciano named his eldest son after his biggest rival in the music business, **Martin Nievera.**

Juan Paolo Martin Valenciano, now 17, could have easily followed in the footsteps of his famous dad or *Ninong* Martin. In fact, he didn't want to be the next Gary V. The plucky teenager doesn't enjoy public attention and doesn't see himself lording it over the pop music arena.

"I love my dad and I look up to him," Paolo says. "I'm proud that people admire him, but I'll never be like him. I don't see myself appearing on TV. I don't enjoy being noticed. I want to become famous not because I'm the son of Gary Valenciano."

Theater has caught Paolo's interest. He auditioned for one of the lead characters in the Trumpets production of "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" and clinched the role of Peter. He sang the challenging "Go the Distance," the Walt Disney theme of "Hercules."

"I had no plans of joining the auditions but my Trumpets friends forced me," shares Paolo, who attends the annual Trumpets summer workshop. "**KC (Concepcion)** also pushed me into it. One day last summer, they all woke me up and made me go to the auditions."

Paolo did not get any special treatment. He registered and waited in line for more than two hours before his number (273) was called.

"It was my first time to audition and my legs were shaking," he recalls. "I was too scared to even think that I was the son of Gary V. There were cameras and I had to sing before 12 people. I didn't think I'd get the part."

He believes that he is more of an actor than a singer.

"My voice isn't as good as my dad's," he says. "I don't think I'm cut out for pop. My voice is suited to theater. I want to be known as a good stage actor. I'm thrilled when I take a bow after a performance and I hear the applause. Its the best feeling I've felt, so far. That's the kind of attention I want, not walking into a mall and having people walk up to you and asking for your autograph."

Paolo is the eldest among the Valenciano brood of three children. While his siblings **Gab** and **Kiana** were often seen on stage with their dad, Paolo stayed on the sidelines.

His classmates at De La Salle University, where he is an AB Literature freshman, found out about his celebrity lineage only two weeks into the trimester.

"I didn't feel I had to tell them," he says. "Then, after two weeks, a female classmate came up to me and said, 'I didn't know that your father is Gary Valenciano.' I even told my classmates to keep quiet about it."

Paolo is consistently low-key. His favorite get-up is denims and shirts. He also wears a baseball cap to avoid being recognized.

But now that he's been exposed, Paolo is inevitably compared to his dad.

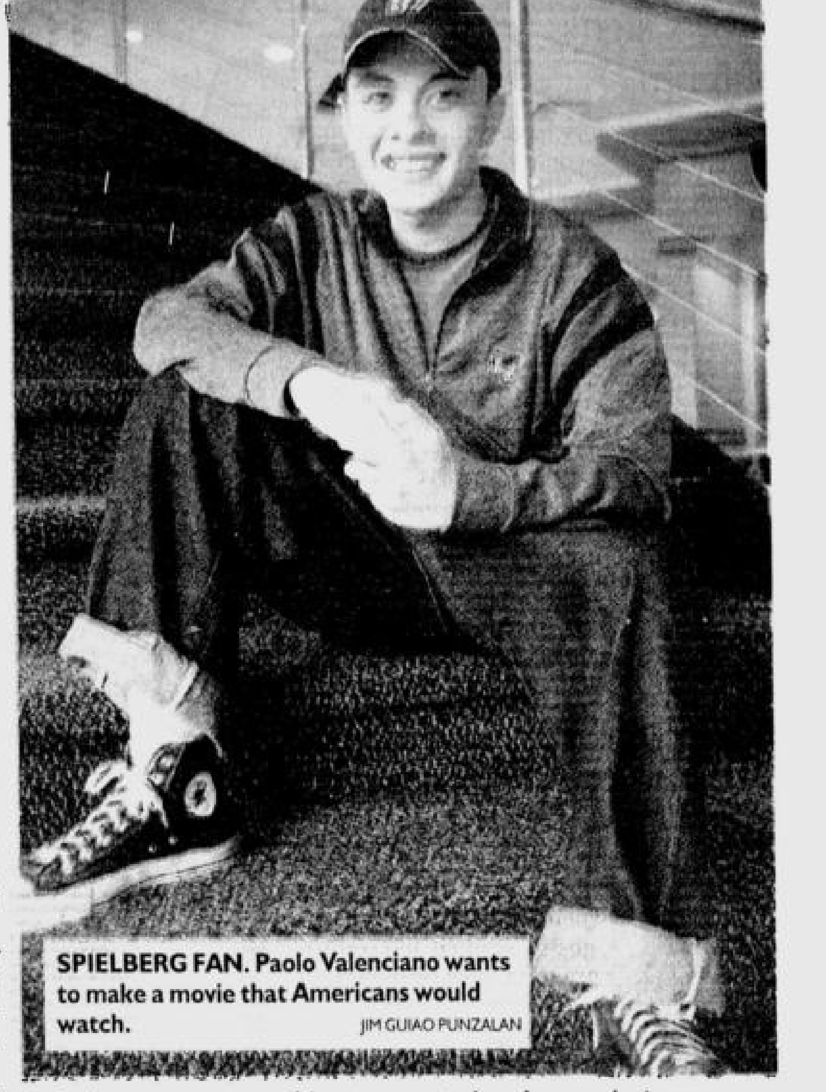
"The comparison is expected," he says. "But when I act, I forget that I'm Paolo Valenciano. I get into the character and even forget that there's an audience. I focus on my role and the story. I was trained not to act like the character but to be the character.

"Up to now, I still have a hard time acting in front of the cameras. For me that's artificial acting. You make a mistake, the director can easily shout 'Cut!' and you can do the scene again. But in theater, there's no editing. You make a mistake, you have to find a way to redeem your performance."

Because he was in the Trumpets musical, Paolo had to forego his month-long US vacation with his family. On the first month of rehearsals, he also had to adjust his schedule.

"I was losing weight and my classmates noticed it," Paolo says. "I had very little sleep. But I enjoyed what I was doing and that was enough reason for me not to give up.

"Everything really came so fast. Two years ago, no one thought I'd ever go into acting or singing. I couldn't even face a crowd. In my dad's concerts, I would always hide backstage while Gab and Kiana danced."



SPIELBERG FAN. Paolo Valenciano wants to make a movie that Americans would watch. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

After his theater debut, Paolo vows to concentrate on stage acting.

Being a big fan of noted Hollywood director **Steven Spielberg**, Paolo also wants to venture into film directing when he's older.

"I want to take up a film course at the New York University," he says. "If I will be given a chance to spend one whole day with Spielberg, I can die happy. I've seen all his movies. He has a distinct way of making movies."

Paolo's ultimate dream?

"I want to make a movie that Americans would watch, a film that would change people's lives, a film which foreign audience will know as truly Pinoy."

("The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" runs until Sept. 15 at the Meralco Theater)

Jordan says sorry

REXONA Boy **Jordan Herrera** finally told the truth on nationwide TV Sunday: that he is married and has a two-year-old kid.

Jordan even apologized to the public for lying about his real status, which has been repeatedly questioned in many gossip columns.

His son, **Kurt Daniel**, is now with his estranged wife, **Agnes**, who comes from a well-to-do family in Bulacan, which is also his hometown. Jordan said the girl's parents did everything to separate them because he is poor.

Since he became a familiar face on TV in the wake of the Rexona commercial and after winning the Mossimo bikini competition, Jordan has become a hot item. He even has to deal with the perennial gender issue, just like most other male upstarts in show biz.

Jordan claimed it was the idea of the people around him to make him deny his kid, so as not to disappoint the female fans who see him as a budding heartthrob. But he said it broke his heart every time he denied his son.

"I woke up one day and told them, I'm going to tell the truth," he said in Filipino. "I don't want my son to grow up hating me. I'm working now so I can give him a better life."

Jordan and the other Rexona models have been launched as the Power Boys by ABS-CBN, which signed them up to an exclusive contract. They are now seen regularly on the noontime show, "Magandang Tanghali Bayan."

Jordan has a sexy role in his film debut, Viva Films' "Gamitan," with **Maui Taylor** and **Wendell Ramos.** The movie is also the directorial debut of **Quark Henares, 21.**

People who know Jordan say he has more skeletons in his closet. He should come clean before any more of his secrets are dug up.

'Signs' star shows signs of faith

From p. A32

find yourself contributing to the film as a director? Did you exchange ideas?

Oh, we talked endlessly about every scene. He's amazing. One of the earmarks of a great director is his ability to communicate. He communicates very well and gets his meaning across because it's his vision. He's lived with it; he thought it up; he conceived it; he wrote it and then constructed the shots long before he even sent me the screenplay.

So he had a very clear, specific vision of what he wanted to do, and he does it very well.

As far as him being the next Spielberg, there's only one Spielberg. You can't be Spielberg. Spielberg is Spielberg, that's all there is to it. And he's great. But Night is Shyamalan and there's no other Shyamalan either. And they'll be saying in 10 years, here's the next Shyamalan.

The thing is an insult to either man, I think, because they're two different individuals and they're both achieving excellence from an entirely different perspective.

What is your take on the crop circles? Do you think aliens are out there trying to make contact or is it all a hoax?

Nah, I think if they wanted to make contact they simply would drop in for a cup of tea (laughter). I'm skeptical when it comes to these things. I think it's probably an elaborate hoax, but some of them do seem a little complicated.

In the movie, your character becomes stronger while he goes through a lot of tough times. He lost his wife and now these guys are coming. You said in an interview that in your married life, you went through ups and downs but that the tough times make you stronger. So in which sense does it make you better and stronger?

Oh, yeah, that which does not kill you makes you stronger, it's true. Look at the experiences that some people have been through, I mean, horrendous experiences. And if they come out the other side of it, they're different, they're changed. And in many ways they've had to adapt in ways that most of us haven't even begun to comprehend about just the nature of the human spirit or what you're capable of enduring.

How did you get to be a better man?

I don't know, two steps forward, one step back kind of thing and a lot of things I'm not real proud of. The marriage thing, the whole relationship thing is tough. I've been married for 22 years (to the former Robyn Moore) and most people don't go that far these days. It doesn't happen. You're gonna get ups and downs; you're gonna get times when you want to strangle each other. You may think if I find somebody else . . . that's bulls--t. You're gonna go through the same old s--t with anybody. You have to adapt and give and take. So, you might as well stay where you're at and try to figure it out.

SIGNS/ p. A27

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'Hot' topics on daytime TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NOT a few viewers have noticed that some TV shows have become sleazier of late. Even morning programs are now discussing "hot" topics that shock viewers.

These are the topics that used to be tackled by late-night TV shows, so what are they doing in the daytime and even morning programs?

Blame it in on the network wars, which have been raging so much more intensely ever since Channel 7 began making inroads into heretofore "sacrosanct" Channel 2 territory.

As a result, "total war" has been declared, and the two biggest TV networks have been thinking up spicier programs and topics to wrest viewers' attention away. Obviously, both TV outfits believe in the dictum, "sex sells," so that's what we're getting on the boob tube these days—in heaps.

Why are the channels getting away with it? Because not enough viewers are noticing, and complaining. So, do survey the daytime shows and decide for yourself if they are indeed going overboard in the sex department.

If you agree, speak up. Think of all those minors viewing these randy programs sending to their vulnerable minds?

Aside from sex, daytime TV shows are also upping the ante when it comes to crime, superstition, freaks, gossip, scandal and controversy. Even news program have been jazzing up their approach, to make the news more "exciting" and "entertaining."

So bent are our leading channels on outrating each other that traditionally secure and responsible programming standards have fallen by the wayside, replaced by "pragmatism" and do-or-competition.

But, as TV outfits ride roughshod over our sensibilities, shouldn't viewers have a say on the matter?

'Baran'

A FILM buff has called to urge us to persuade a distributor or festival organizer to bring in the Iranian movie "Baran" for screening in a local theater. We do so gladly, since we viewed the film in last year's Fukuoka International Film Festival in Japan, and thought it was one of the best movies shown there.

"Baran," by acclaimed filmmaker **Majid Majidi** ("Children of Heaven," "Color of Paradise"), is about 17-year-old Latif, who assists laborers at a construction site in Tehran.

One day, a laborer named Najaf is injured and is unable to work. He's an illegal laborer from Afghanistan. His son, Rahmat, arrives at the construction site to earn money for the family, but is too delicate to do heavy labor. The foreman gives him light work like serving tea to the laborers, which Latif used to do.

Latif now has to do exhausting manual work, so he resents Rahmat's arrival. But, when he learns Rahmat's most closely guarded secret, his attitude changes completely, and he does everything he can to make life easier for the interloper.

But the government regulations are suddenly imposed, and Rahmat and the other Afghan laborers disappear. Latif now has to look for Rahmat, going as far as using all of his salary and selling his prized identification card.

The reason for this is because Rahmat is actually a girl with long hair. She passed herself off as a boy to make money for her family. Latif reunites with a girl, whose real name is Baran, just as she is about to go back to Afghanistan, and gives her all his money.

Nora's latest comeback

FOR some months now, IBC-13 has been airing "Nora Mismo," **Nora Aunor**'s new public-service show. While the program has its plus points, it generally fails to make a strong impact because its public-service element has been minimized, possibly due to budget constraints. It also features too many stodgy interviews with government officials, hardly the kind of viewing fare to delight Nora's fans.

That's why we're happy to hear that Nora will soon star in a TV soap opera on Channel 2. This will showcase her still considerable gift as an actress, and remind everyone that she's one of our finest thespians.

We trust that the Superstar will take full advantage of this chance to make a big comeback, and not fritter it away by being testy, uncooperative, or lazy, as she sometimes has in the past.

If Nora comes on strong in her new soap, movie producers could get interested in her again, and cast her in their forthcoming productions. Many people think she's over the hill as a film star and actress, but we believe that she still has some great performances left in her.

After all, she's still in her late 40s or thereabouts, and her new maturity should help her tackle even more complex roles than she's essayed at the prime of her stellar career.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

GAMITAN R18 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:00	LILO & STITCH GP 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:30	UNFAITHFUL R18 11:30,2:05,4:40, 7:15,9:50
INSOMNIA R13 12:30,2:55,5:20, 7:45,10:10	LILO & STITCH - GP 12:30,2:30,4:30 TRIPLE X - P13 6:50,9:30	TRIPLE X P13 11:50,2:30,5:10, 7:50,10:30

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Columbia Pictures presents the biggest slam-bang action picture of the season! Time Magazine says xXx is "a highly stylized adrenaline rush of a movie." You won't want to miss it.

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MOVIE GUIDE

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(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) SWEETEST THING
2 (SDDS) TRIPLE X
3 (DTS) MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 GOLD (DTS) UNFAITHFUL
5 GOLD (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
6 GOLD (SDDS) TRIPLE X
7 GOLD (DOLBY) INSOMNIA
8 GAMITAN
9 LILO & STITCH
10 KILLING ME SOFTLY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA

TEL. 551 63 87

1 GAMITAN
2 TRIPLE X
3 BIGLANG LIKO

starmall Movies

(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 UNFAITHFUL
2 GAMITAN
3 INSOMNIA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TRIPLE X
5 BIGLANG LIKO

METROPOLIS star

tel 850.4285

1 INSOMNIA
2 BIGLANG LIKO
3 TRIPLE X
4 GAMITAN
5 HUMAN EATER
6 SEX & ZEN
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA

THX

(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1 TRIPLE X

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 D' URAGONS
2 WINDTALKERS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1
2 GAMITAN
3

Spring

(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1
A

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 GAMITAN
2 TRIPLE X
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 INSOMNIA
5 MORE PANTS IN THE ANTS
6 GAMITAN
7 (DTS) UNFAITHFUL
8 (SDDS) SWEETEST THING
9 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 GAMITAN
2 GAMITAN
3 SWEETEST THING
4 (SDDS) TRIPLE X
5 SEX & ZEN
6 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
7 (DTS) UNFAITHFUL
8 BIGLANG LIKO
9 D' URAGONS

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)
2
3
4 SEX & ZEN
5 (SDDS) TRIPLE X
6 GAMITAN
7 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
8 BIGLANG LIKO

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 TRIPLE X
2 INSOMNIA
3 (DTS) SEX & ZEN
4 GAMITAN
5 (SDDS) TRIPLE X

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 GAMITAN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 GAMITAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet — SEX & ZEN EVA

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 TRIPLE X
2 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
3 GAMITAN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
2 SEX & ZEN
3 RESERVE
4 GAMITAN
5 RESERVER

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED
3 CLOSED
4 CLOSED
5 CLOSED
6 CLOSED

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1
2

Berma
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67

1 TRIPLE X
2 GAMITAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 GAMITAN
2 SORORITY BOYS
3 (DTS) TRIPLE X

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 SORORITY BOYS
2 (DTS) GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
4 SWEETEST THING

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 SWEETEST THING
2 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
3 (DTS) SORORITY BOYS
4 GAMITAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 D' URAGONS
2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
3 TRIPLE X
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 ABOUT A BOY
2 SWEETEST THING
3 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
4 (DTS) 8 LEGGED FREAKS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) TRIPLE X
2 RESERVE
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 (DTS) GAMITAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
2 GAMITAN
3 (DTS) SORORITY BOYS
4 BIGLANG LIKO
5 MAPUPULANG ROSAS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 GAMITAN
2 TRIPLE X
3 BIGLANG LIKO

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 TRIPLE X
3 GAMITAN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) BIGLANG LIKO
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 GAMITAN
2 TRIPLE X
3 TRIPLE X

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 LILO & STITCH
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 TRIPLE X

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DS) TRIPLE X
2 GAMITAN
3 (DTS) ABOUT A BOY
4 SORORITY BOYS

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

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2 BIGLANG LIKO
3 TRIPLE X
4 LILO & STITCH
5 INSOMNIA
6 GAMITAN
7 HUMAN EATER
8 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161418

1 GAMITAN
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 INSOMNIA
4 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
5 TRIPLE X
6 BIGLANG LIKO
7 LILO & STITCH
8 SWEETEST THING
9 UNFAITHFUL
10 WINDTALKERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 INSOMNIA
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 TRIPLE X
5 LILO & STITCH
6 GAMITAN
7 TRIPLE X
8 UNFAITHFUL
9 D' URAGONS
10 SWEETEST THING
11 SEX & ZEN
12 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

SM CITY MANILA
5219240

1 UNFAITHFUL
2 SWEETEST THING
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 TRIPLE X
5 INSOMNIA
6 TRIPLE X
7 SEX & ZEN
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS
9 GAMITAN
10 HUMAN EATER
11 KILLING ME SOFTLY
12 LILO & STITCH

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 TRIPLE X
2 LILO & STITCH
3 TRIPLE X
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
6 WINDTALKERS
7 HUMAN EATER
8 KILLING ME SOFTLY
9 GAMITAN
10 INSOMNIA
11 SWEETEST THING
12 SEX & ZEN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 LILO & STITCH
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 GAMITAN
4 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
5 INSOMNIA
6 KILLING ME SOFTLY
7 SWEETEST THING
8 TRIPLE X

SM SOUTHMALL
8066883

1 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
2 LILO & STITCH
3 TRIPLE X
4 INSOMNIA
5 KILLING ME SOFTLY
6 WINDTALKERS
7 GAMITAN
8 TRIPLE X
9 UNFAITHFUL
10 SWEETEST THING

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 UNFAITHFUL
2 TRIPLE X
3 LILO & STITCH
4 GAMITAN
5 BIGLANG LIKO
6 ORANGE COUNTY
7 STUART LITTLE 2
8 HIGH CRIMES

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 ABOUT A BOY
2 CLOSED
3 STUART LITTLE 2
4 TRIPLE X
5 GAMITAN
6 LILO & STITCH
7 CLOSED
8 MEGIDDO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 TRIPLE X
2 ABOUT A BOY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 SWEETEST THING
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 GAMITAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 GAMITAN
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 TRIPLE X
4 LILO & STITCH

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 TRIPLE X
2 GAMITAN
3 INSOMNIA
4 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 TRIPLE X
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 GAMITAN
5 POWERPUFF GIRLS
6 STUART LITTLE 2

SM BICUTAN

1
2 *SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND*
3
4

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2 *SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND*
3
4

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

TRIPLE X
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:45 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

LILO & STITCH
11:00 FS/11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/ 9:05/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:25 END

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1 THX TRIPLE X
2 TRIPLE X
3 THE SWEETEST THING
4 INSOMIA
5 GAMITAN
6 UNFAITHFUL
7 SEX-ZEN/HUMAN EATER
8 LILO & STITCH
9 KILLING ME SOFTLY
10 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 TRIPLE X
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 GAMITAN
6 LILO & STITCH
7 INSOMIA

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1 UNFAITHFUL
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 MORE ANTS.../SEX-ZEN
4 LILO & STITCH
5 TRIPLE X
6 INSOMIA
7 GAMITAN
8 KILLING ME SOFTLY

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 SEX-ZEN/KILLING ME SOFTLY
2 TRIPLE X
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 LILIO & STITCH
6 INSOMIA
7 UNFAITHFUL
8 GAMITAN

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 TRIPLE X
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 INSOMIA
5 GAMITAN
6 LILO & STITCH

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 TRIPLE X
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 HIGH CRIMES
5 THE URAGONS
6 ABOUT A BOY

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 TRIPLE X
2 STUART LITTLE
3 KILLING ME SOFTLY
4 ABOUT A BOY
5 LILO & STITCH
6 ANG GALING-GALING/GAMITAN

Star Mills-
San Fernando, Pamp 875- 1927 961 5318 / 5270

1 ABOUT A BOY
2 GAMITAN
3 UNFAITHFUL
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 TRIPLE X
6

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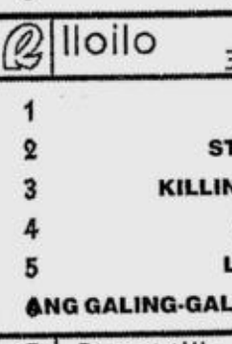

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2ND WEEK!
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cameron diaz
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MAS NAKAKAALIW! MAS NAKAKABALIW!
THE MOST AWAITED SEQUEL TO GERMANY'S BIGGEST BOX OFFICE SENSATION!!
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More Ants in the Pants

"ESPIONAGE ADVENTURE"
XPLODE 2 D XTREME - AUG.28!
MEET THE NEW BREED OF SPY WHO DOES IT BETTER AGAINST THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS TERRORISTS!!
VAN DAMME
HIGH-SPEED ACTION TO THE MAX IN THE TURBO-CHARGED TRADITION OF "TRUE LIES" AND "UNDER SIEGE 2"!!
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The Deadliest Disease Ever Discovered Is About To Be Unleashed On The World
DERAILED
TODONG AKSYON NA 'TO! BAKBAKANG UMAATIKABO!
DOLBY DIGITAL
Solar FILMS INC.

'Extreme Faces' personality tilt

EXTREME Faces 2002, a face and personality contest, debuts with 26 aspiring models vying for the title of Mr. and Miss Aficionado tomorrow night, 8 p.m., at the GSIS Theater in Pasay.

The winning pair will receive cash and gift items. They will also be the official endorsers of the Aficionado line of products, which includes perfume, clothing apparel and accessories.

Other special awards include Mr. and Miss Fa, Mr. and Miss Hairwatch, Miss Perwoll, Miss Fewa and Mr. Depp.

Organizers, led by businessman Joel Cruz, are also handing out the Surfers' Choice Awards to the pair who garnered the most number of votes on the Internet. The public can log on to www.extremefaces.pinoycentral.com.

The contest is co-presented by Aficionado Boutique and Perfume, AMA International Institute of Technology, Canyon Woods Residential Resort and Air Philippines.

For inquiries, call 740-7953 or 72 or 411-54-55.

CONTESTANTS. Olive Caling and Rex Arce.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GAMITAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BIGLANG LIKO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SWEETEST THING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	INSOMNIA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SEZ & ZEN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	GAMITAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIYAK NA GUBAT / WILD SIDE
ODEON	TRIPLE XL
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	GAMITAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SUM OF ALL FEARS / 7 DAYS TO LIVE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SEXZ & ZEN THE UNTOLD STORY
REMAR	GAMITAN
REMAR-2	BIGLANG LIKO

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	GAMITAN
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-2	TRIPLE X

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-3	SWEETEST THING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	8 LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HUMAN EATER
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	D' URAGONS
CINEMA-8	SEX & ZEN UNTOLD STORY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	INSOMNIA
CINEMA-12	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
CINEMA-14	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-15	GAMITAN

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

ENTERTAINMENT

CROPPING UP. Despite his role in "Signs," Mel Gibson believes that if "aliens" wanted to make contact "they simply would drop in for a cup of tea."

'Signs' star shows signs of faith

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—A sure sign that you are going to have an interesting press conference: Mel Gibson is present.

It's not everyday that you see the human side of a Hollywood icon like Academy Award-winner Mel Gibson. So when he enters a Beverly Hills hotel room, we are amused to see him still nervous. He sees the roomful of foreign journalists for the press conference for "Signs," his first M. Night Shyamalan-directed movie for Touchstone Pictures, and Gibson immediately takes a few steps back. Wide-eyed and mouth agape, he exclaims, "Oh s--t!"

Gibson, who has been acting professionally for more than 20 years, is still nervous during his own press conference?

Earlier, we spotted him arriving in his own silver Mercedes Benz. Unlike other superstars who have their own drivers, Gibson prefers to drive himself. There were no ubiquitous bodyguards or groupies as Gibson arrived and left by himself.

He is casually attired in a short-sleeved green leaf-printed shirt, unbuttoned to reveal a white tank top, and a pair of blue denim pants and brown loafers.

He scans the room and puts a glass of water in front of him (He will later accidentally spill this glass of water when asked about Bruce Willis' reaction when he [Willis] learned that Gibson is taking Willis' place in an M. Night Shyamalan movie.)

The 46-year-old superstar, who has appeared in one box-office hit after another ("Braveheart," "What Women Want," "Lethal Weapon," "Mad Max," "The Road Warrior"), plays a farmer and former Episcopalian priest, Graham Hess, in "Signs," the topgrosser thriller which has made more than $150 million in the US.

The suspenseful movie, distributed by Buena Vista Pictures, also stars Joaquin Phoenix ("Gladiator") as Gibson's brother, Rory Culkin (youngest brother of Macaulay Culkin, star of "Home Alone") and newcomer Abigail Breslin as Gibson's son and daughter, respectively.

"Signs" is about how a farmer from Bucks County, Pennsylvania and his family discover intricate patterns of circles and lines carved into their crops. The discovery changes their life as well as Graham Hess' faith and outlook.

Below are excerpts of our press con interview with Mel Gibson.

"Signs" is a film that has faith at its core. Since clearly you're a man of great faith, did this help you when you were getting under the skin of your character?

I think these questions—Is there something out there? Is there something greater than me?—in whatever form you happen to think of it, if they're Martians or angels or whatever, are questions that most of us have grappled with at some time or another. I think that's kind of the universality of the theme of this film. I think most people will relate to it on that level, whether they accept or reject. It's interesting.

You said that when you read this script for the first time you wanted to be in this film right away. Did your Catholic background play a role in your making that decision?

Did I identify with the character? Of course, he's a father who's a father, but he's Episcopalian. I guess because Catholic priests don't get married and have children, or at least not publicly anyway (laughter). I didn't mean to say that, I'm not that callous. It was a very well crafted script, it was complete in itself as far as the intentions and motivations of people are concerned, and I felt I understood who that guy was.

In a previous interview, you mentioned that working with director M. Night Shyamalan was like learning how to act again. Can you please elaborate on that?

Well, it was interesting. See, as an actor, what you're always trying to do is be totally self-aware of exactly what it is that you do. And I have a keen sense of that stuff. But you can never be truly 100 percent objective as someone that's watching you.

And (Shyamalan) was the keenest observer I think I've ever run into. He didn't miss anything. He would see everything. He would get right down to "Hey, your nostrils moved" and stuff like that. And I'd say, "So?" And he'd say, "Well, it gave the wrong message." Stuff like that.

It was really interesting that somebody took the time to watch so closely because he really cared. I'm not saying that other directors don't care. It's just that I've never been exposed to such a meticulous viewing, like he really had me under a microscope and he was making very fine little adjustments.

So, it was just very helpful that he was making me aware of things. In a sense that's what I'm after, another lesson in self-awareness.

Newsweek magazine defined the director of this movie as the next Steven Spielberg, which is a great compliment. Did you

SIGNS/ p. A28

Alien sightir
Guess who's in town to leav
th of chaos in his wake?
scene-stealer
THEATERS MOVIE GUIDE
Exclusive picks from myGlobe mobile e services
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HEARTBREAK HOTEL — HEARTBRK
HOUND DOG — HOUND
TEXT CARDS
LILO2 LILO3 LSLOGO1 LS6 LS7 LS8 LS9 STITCH3 STITCH4 STITCH5 STITCH6 STITCH7
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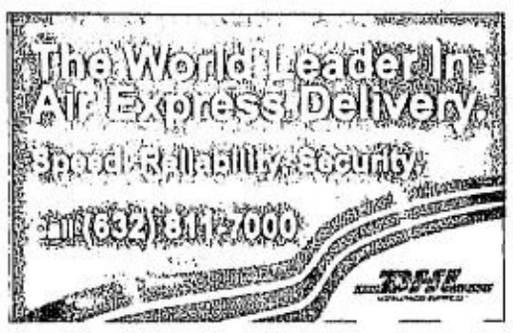


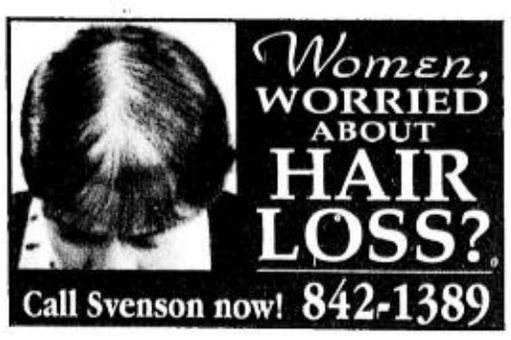
FRIDAY,
AUGUST 23, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

B1

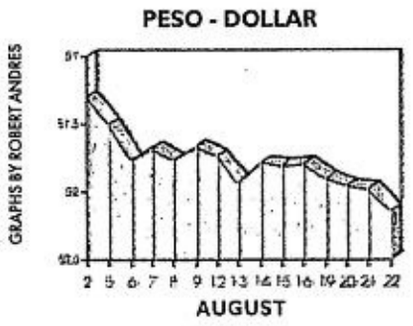


7-mo. budget gap breaches 2002 target

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱52.15 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 22, 2002

¥119.00 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 22, 2002

GOLD: $307/307.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 22, 2002

STOCK MARKET

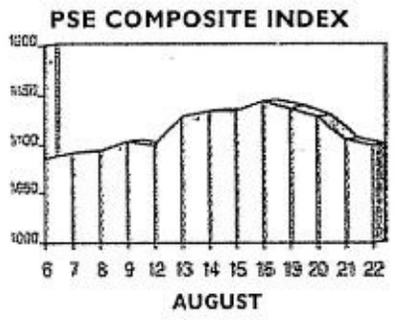
Shares down 0.6%

SHARES closed lower yesterday on worries over the government's fiscal health and renewed extremist violence, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index finished 6.23 points, or 0.6 percent, lower at 1,098.50 after losing 24.15 points Wednesday to 1,104.73.

Losers beat gainers 27 to 20, with 35 issues unchanged.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Major blue chips Metrobank, BPI and SM Prime led losers.

"The lack of fresh leads, lingering concerns over the government's fiscal position, and news of the latest kidnapping in the south weighed down the market," said Mark Canizares, analyst at Citiseconline.com.

The government reported after the market closed that the budget deficit in the seven months to July stood at P133.1 billion. AP

By Doris C. Dumlao and Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has breached its P130-billion budget deficit ceiling for 2002 in the first seven months of the year alone following sharp revenue shortfalls partly triggered by resistance to aggressive reforms within the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The peso fell and closed at a fresh 8-month low of 52.15 to $1 following the disclosure of the budget deficit figure and peace and order concerns.

From January to July this year, the budget gap further widened to P133 billion due to a P13.4-billion deficit recorded for the month of July alone, the Department of Finance announced yesterday.

The actual seven-month deficit was way above the P106.33-billion deficit cap for the period and the P82.59-billion level for the same period last year, thus further sending jitters to the financial markets about the government's fragile fiscal standing for the rest of the year.

The Makati Business Club yesterday said it was worried that the government might be losing its grip on the fiscal sector and this could put pressure on local interest rates and on the credit rating outlook of foreign agencies.

"The country runs the danger of being perceived as having relaxed on the fiscal discipline and the signals are all there, especially with the weak collection. Sooner or later, this would put pressure on interest rates and may threaten our credit rating," said Guillermo Luz, executive director of the MBC.

But despite the breaching of the full-year deficit cap so early in the year, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the P130-billion target—equivalent to 3.3 percent of gross domestic product—would be kept as a "fighting" target.

"We know that this will be extremely tough to meet but we believe that it is more important to hold ourselves to our original target so that we remain aggressive in our fiscal discipline program," Camacho said.

"It is a clear signal we are sending that fiscal discipline ranks high among our many guiding policies," he said.

Revenues in July fell by 13.73 percent from a year ago to P46:57 billion although expenditures grew at 2 percent to P59.96 billion.

This developed amid the sudden resignation of Rene Bañez, chief of the government's main revenue-collecting agency BIR, who has claimed that there were individuals within the organization who were trying to sabotage efforts to reform the graft-ridden agency.

The DOF attributed the revenue shortfall in July as a consequence of the organizational revamp started by Bañez as well as the change in the agency's accounting treatment for tax remittances on bank deposits and other percentage taxes on financial institutions from quarterly collections last year to monthly collections starting January this year.

"The weak performance of the BIR was also a reflection of the

7-MO. BUDGET/ B6

BCDA hits railroading of Clark SM mall project

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is opposing moves by the management of Clark Development Corp. to railroad a contract to put up a P500-million shopping mall at the entrance of the Clark Special Economic Zone near the MacArthur Highway.

BCDA president and CEO Rufo Colayco stressed that the BCDA fully supported the establishment of an SM mall in Clark (which would attract thousands of Filipinos to the ecozone) but that the BCDA was opposed to its site being pushed by CDC because it would create a major gridlock in one of Luzon's main artery for commuter and cargo transport. Colayco invited retail magnate Henry Sy to put up a mall in Clark during his short stint as CDC president during the Estrada administration.

In a letter dated Aug. 19, Colayco informed the CDC board that the construction of a mall near the Salakot Entrance of Clark would preempt the design of the planned multi-modal logistics center that would be built east of the airport runway, and compromise the layout of the critical access facilities to the airport from the Subic port, Metro Manila (including North Rail), Pangasinan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

Colayco said it was important to coordinate the development of both Clark and Subic and nearby provinces because the Central Luzon master plan would only succeed if all the pieces fit together. "What's the point in having the best seaport in Subic and economic zones in Tarlac and Nueva Ecija if traffic coming from these areas would be bogged down in a traffic jam once they reach Clark," Colayco said.

He said an intermodal logistics center in Clark was crucial to the creation of the new economic corridor because, along with other catalyst projects in the region (such as the 90-kilometer high-

BCDA/ B3

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BACK TO PROFITABILITY

Belle ends debt-reduction program

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEISURE estate and gaming firm Belle Corp. has settled a $17-million loan with foreign lender Deutsche Bank, thus completing the restructuring of more than P6 billion in debts needed to ensure its return to profitability.

Belle's spin-off unit Highlands Prime Inc., which was put up to continue the development of the plush Tagaytay Highlands estate, is also ready to launch its first project—"The Woodridge"—next month, company officials announced during Highland Prime's annual stockholders' meeting yesterday.

Belle vice chair Willy Ocier told reporters that with the influx of fresh funds from the Highlands Prime spin-off and the completion of the debt restructuring, Belle was now on the road to profitability.

Ocier also said that Deutsche Bank had agreed to drop a lawsuit earlier filed against Belle demanding more assets to secure the $17-million loan. The court case has become moot now that Belle has repaid the debt, he noted.

Earlier, Belle finished the restructuring of $68.5 million in outstanding floating rate notes as well as a P2-billion debt owed to several local banks.

The completion of Belle's debt restructuring will reduce the company's interest expenses by more than half. In the first semester of the year, for instance, Belle chief finance officer Manuel Gana noted that such expenditures were reduced to only P179 million from P413 million a year ago.

Belle reverted to profitability in the first half of the year, raking in a consolidated income of P428.1 million compared to a net loss of P924.4 million a year ago due to extraordinary gains from the sale of a majority interest in Highlands Prime to the group of retail tycoon Henry Sy.

Belle raised about P2.8 billion in gross proceeds from the spin-off and the sale of shares in Highlands Prime after the latter's initial public offering on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Highlands Prime received more than 500 hectares of property assets—consisting of subdivision lots and unsold condominium units in Tagaytay Highlands and Tagaytay Midlands golf clubs—from the spin-off.

On its first year of operation, Highlands Prime president Antonio Henson said the company was on track with its target of P47.7 million in net profit on the back of P581 million in revenues as promised in the prospectus made for its initial public offering.

Henson noted that Highlands Prime had already attained 50 percent of its full-year target in net income in the first half by selling units and lots in projects such as Pinecrest Village, the Villas, the Belle View, the Woodlands, the Alta Mira and Lakeview Heights subdivisions within Tagaytay Highlands.

Metrobank sells bad loans to asset management firm

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. (Metrobank), the Philippines' largest lender, said yesterday it has sold some of its bad loans to an unidentified asset management company.

"We confirm having concluded a sale and purchase agreement with a special purpose asset vehicle company, or SPAV, to hold the bank's NPLs (non-performing loans)," Metrobank said in a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange without giving a value of the deal.

The bank said it has submitted the agreement to the central bank for approval.

Pending approval from the central bank, Metrobank said it cannot disclose the details of the agreement or identify the other parties involved in the transaction.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said last week the NPL ratio of Philippine banks dropped slightly from a month earlier to 18.06 percent in June after one lender sold its problem loans.

Metrobank also said it has broken off talks with US investment bank Lehman Brothers on a joint venture that was supposed to buy some of the lender's NPLs.

"We have terminated negotiations with Lehman Brothers," the statement said. *AFP*

CURRENCIES

Aug. 22, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.019992	1.000000	52.0100
Japan	Yen	0.008607	0.008438	0.4389
United Kingdom	Pound	1.562627	1.532000	79.6793
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130770	0.128207	6.6680
Switzerland	Franc	0.680812	0.667468	34.7150
Canada	Dollar	0.655522	0.642674	33.4255
Singapore	Dollar	0.583119	0.571690	29.7336
Australia	Dollar	0.555067	0.544188	28.3032
Bahrain	Dinar	2.705693	2.652661	137.9649
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271991	0.266660	13.8690
Brunei	Dollar	0.581689	0.570288	29.6607
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024263	0.023787	1.2372
UAE	Dirham	0.277715	0.272272	14.1609
Korea	Won	0.000863	0.000846	0.0440
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.980400	50.9906
Argentina	Real	0.284121	0.278552	14.4875
Brazil	Real	0.332029	0.325521	16.9303
Denmark	Kroner	0.134635	0.131996	6.8651
India	Rupee	0.021049	0.020636	1.0733
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268455	0.263193	13.6887
Mexico	New Peso	0.104081	0.102041	5.3072
New Zealand	Dollar	0.473996	0.464706	24.1694
Norway	Kroner	0.135290	0.132638	6.8985
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017172	0.016835	0.8756
South Africa	Rand	0.094121	0.092276	4.7993
Sweden	Kroner	0.109084	0.106946	5.5623
Syria	Pound	0.023076	0.022624	1.1767
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030089	0.029499	1.5342
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000730	0.000716	0.0372

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, August 22, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	17	16.75	17	275,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	42	43	530,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	27.5	26.5	27	133,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34	33	33	504,900
Philippine National Bank	31	31.5	31	31	12,400
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	8,000
Security Bank Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	1,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	42,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.3	0.38	0.3	0.38	220,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1200	1200	1200	1200	430
Sun Life Financial Serv.	920	925	920	920	1,220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21	21.25	21	21.25	75,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.51	0.53	0.51	0.53	1,240,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	482.5	485	482.5	485	7,720
Ipeople Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	100,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.022	0.025	0.022	0.024	500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	6,000
Pltel	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	920,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	297.5	297.5	290	295	130,780
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	11,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	1,600
Manila Electric Co. B	28	28.5	28	28	41,600
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.66	364,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.4	873,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	1,490,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	2,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	140,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13.5	13	13.5	445,200
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48.5	49	652,800
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	52.5	52	52.5	29,300
Universal Robina Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	30,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	1,261,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	59,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.22	10,990,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.38	0.45	0.38	0.45	110,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	12	425,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	400,000
Ionics Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	88,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.235	610,000
Music Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	510,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	2,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8	8	8	8	20,000
Stenlel Manufacturing	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.31	220,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Manila Jockey Club	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	19,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.5	772,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	12,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	3,868,000
Cityland Development Corp	2	2	2	2	34,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	1,760,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	2,280,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1	1	8,650,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	20,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.33	0.21	0.33	7,400,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	5,010,000
SM Development Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	2,899,000
MINING					
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	11,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.3	2,230,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.31	3,160,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	53,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.5	0.5	210,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,735,350	49,869,495.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	38,217,000	121,434,525.00
PRO	31,931,000	51,266,050.00
Mining	16,390,000	1,632,400.00
OIL	54,210,000	257,300.00
GRAND TOTALS:	142,483,350	224,459,770.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	427.20	DOWN 6.77
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,519.83	DOWN 1.92
PRO	510.75	DOWN 2.06
Mining	1,125.93	UP 14.97
OIL	1.36	DOWN 0.23
All Shares Index	634.64	DOWN 3.09
Composite	1,098.50	DOWN 6.23

NO. OF ADVANCES: 20; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 82; NO. OF TRADES: 1,508

DISCLOSURES

BANK of the Philippine Islands disclosed the resignation of Ariston Estrada Jr. as director of the bank and the subsequent election of Romeo Bernardo as replacement.

* * *

SOUTHEAST Asia Cement Holdings Inc. announced the election of Pierre Delepianque as director of the company following the resignation of Jean Dominique Sejourne. Also the company's board approved the manual on corporate governance and appointed Romeo Versula as compliance officer.

* * *

EURO-MED Laboratories Philippines Inc. created an audit committee with members William Padolina, Enrique Yap and Evangeline Baviera.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank reported a net income of P144 million for the first six months of 2002.

* * *

C&P Homes Inc. reported an unaudited net loss of P18 million for the first half of 2002.

* * *

IONICS Inc. reported an unaudited consolidated net loss of P42.3 million for the first half of 2002.

* * *

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. said that contrary to reports, it was pushing through with the launch of its cellular phone service within this year.

* * *

REPUBLIC Cement Corp. reported a net income of P58.7 million for the first half of 2002.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc. announced that payment date for its 17-percent stock dividend for stockholders as of Aug. 5 would be on Aug. 29.

* * *

UNION Cement Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 4, 2 p.m. at the Rizal Ballroom A of Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of Aug. 18 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

FIRST Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 6, 8 a.m. at the Via Mare Penthouse, PSE Center, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of July 15 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MEDCO Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Sept. 12 to Oct. 4 with record date on Sept. 4.

* * *

EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc. disclosed the resignation of Enriqueta Disuanco and Aurora Mathay as directors of the bank. Elected to replace them were Leonora de Jesus and Fulgencio Factoran Jr. Carmen Huang also resigned as senior vice president while Nilo Divina was promoted as SVP and shall hold the position of general counsel/head of legal services division.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

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COMPAQ

Crossed lines

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

UH, oh.

What is happening with the media handlers of PLDT bosses Antonio Cojuangco III and Manuel V. Pangilinan?

In their latest fictional offering, the PLDT spin doctors leaked to their favorite paper that TonyBoy and MVP "attended" the First Pacific Co. board meeting in Hong Kong on Monday, thus giving TonyBoy, who is still seeking medical treatment halfway round the world in San Francisco, the power to bilocate himself.

To top it all, MVP supposedly presented a "management buyout scheme" in behalf of PLDT, thus opening MVP to a potential criminal lawsuit from First Pacific shareholders for conflict-of-interest and insider trading, at the very least.

(Precisely because of the potential lawsuits, MVP has been very careful to state that he is not a party to any management buyout proposal offered by the rebellious PLDT to its controlling Hong Kong shareholder.)

And precisely because of the conflict-of-situation that he is in, MVP being both First Pacific executive chair and PLDT/Metro Pacific CEO, MVP and another First Pacific/Metro Pacific director, Edward Tortorici, were asked to step out of the First Pacific boardroom when the Gokongwei-First Pacific deal came up on the agenda Monday.

But what is more interesting for PLDT and Fort Bonifacio watchers is what happened in San Francisco last week, when TonyBoy and taipan John Gokongwei were both in the Bay Area.

TonyBoy was seen playing golf with ex-PNB president Arsenio Bartolome at the Half Moon Bay course.

Meanwhile, Bartolome's best friend, also ex-PNB president, Peter Favila, was spotted with Gokongwei in a Chinese restaurant in Chinatown, wolfing down what looked like an overcooked pigeon a la First Pacific.

Both Favila, incidentally now a stock exchange director, and Bartolome flew to San Francisco together not just to play golf and gorge on Chinese food, so it seems.

Missing Haydee

IF YOU have been missing Haydee Yorac's trademark scowl over the television, it is because the PCGG chief has been overseas for the past two weeks now, trying to stop the $650-million Marcos deposits from being withdrawn from the ailing Philippine National Bank.

That scenario is bound to happen given the recent Swiss ruling allowing Marcos Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco and his son Banjo to finally withdraw millions that have lain dormant with the Swiss banks since Edsa I.

The PCGG is not talking but their chief is apparently holding talks with Swiss authorities in an attempt to reverse the new ruling.

Short cuts

- GROWING labor militancy amid shrinking margins has prompted Racks, the American-style ribs and chicken chain, to close down five of its 15 outlets.
- THE winner of the P70-million contract to install a light-and-sound museum within Intramuros, Amigo Club International Inc., is not even registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- THE probate for the contested will of the late billionaire Manuel Cancio of the Goodwill Bookstore chain is being heard by Judge Winlove Dumayas of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 59. *(Cocktales may be reached at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Polo Club polls reset to Sept. 25

THE MANILA Polo Club board has postponed the club's scheduled election of board members to Sept. 25 instead of Aug. 26.

In an emergency meeting Wednesday, the MPC board passed the resolution postponing the elections and also set Sept. 10 as the deadline for the complete listing of qualified voters, Sept. 15 as the deadline for the submission of proxies and Sept. 20 as the deadline for the validation of proxies.

The postponement was done in light of the ruling of the Securities and Exchange Commission that Memorandum Circular No. 05-1 on board elections of stock and non-stock corporations were applicable to the MPC balloting, and as such club members can demand from the MPC board a complete list of voters and the proper validation of proxies prior to the elections.

Elena R. Torrijos

BCDA hits railroading . . .

From page B1

way from Subic to Hacienda Luisita and a container port in Subic), it would open up Central Luzon to the sea, link Clark airport and Subic port, and form its backbone.

"The nerve center of this entire scenario will be the Clark airport, and the land immediately east of the runway. It is where the Clark-Subic highway will pass; it is where cargo as well as people coming from and going to the airport from all directions will move; and it is where space must be provided to hold and distribute goods for distribution to local and international points," Colayco said.

Colayco questioned the undue haste by which the CDC board approved the project, which he said needed to be reviewed more thoroughly because of its implication on the future plans for Clark.

Colayco had proposed that the SM Mall be located at the white elephant Centennial Expo, which is 9 km away from the Salakot Entrance. "SM chose the lot near the Salakot entrance because the mall must be accessible to public transport. Opening Clark to public transport (with the construction of a by-pass loop) would meet SM's requirement. It is time to recognize that Clark should not be kept an enclave and it must benefit the public," Colayco said.

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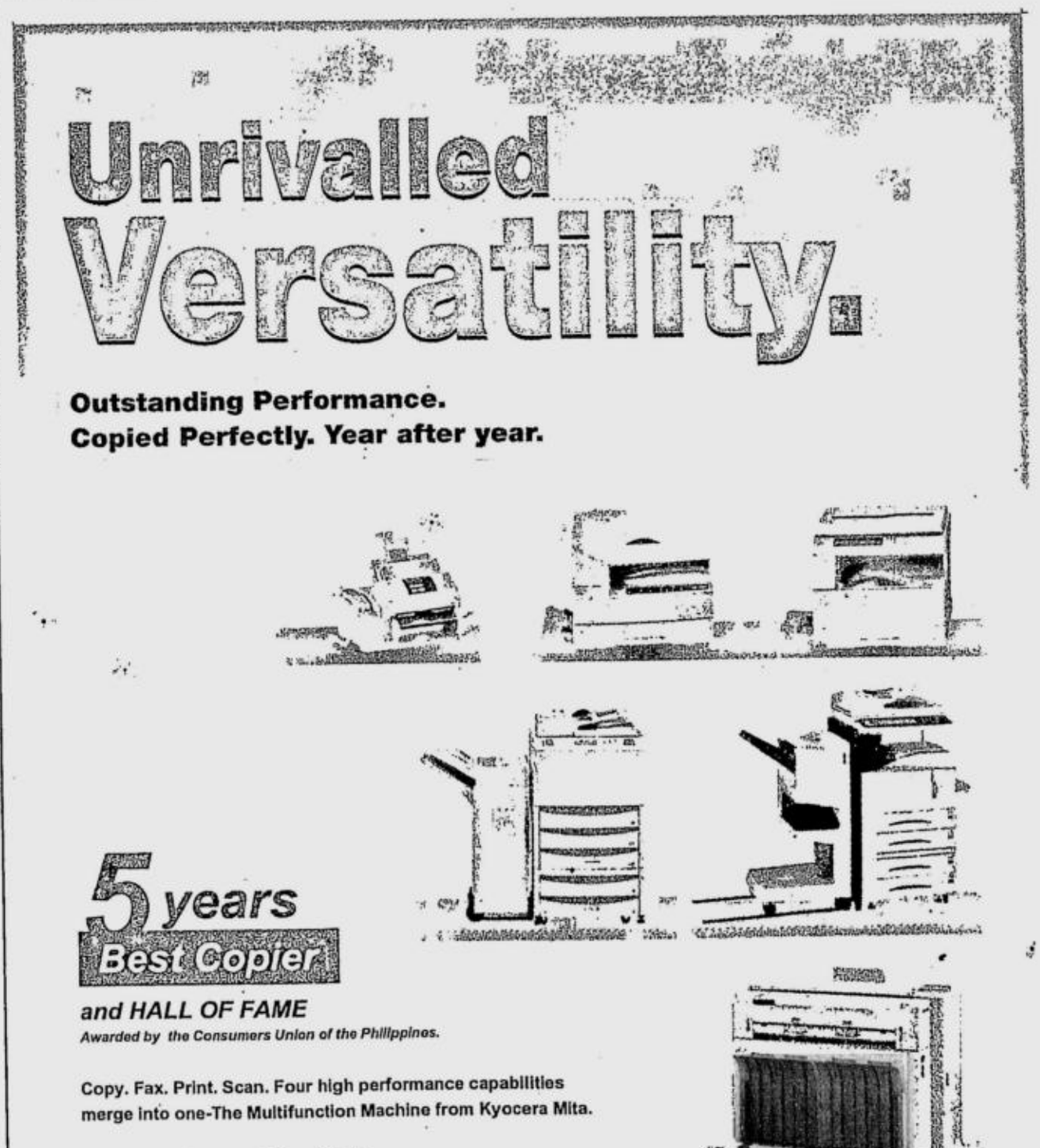

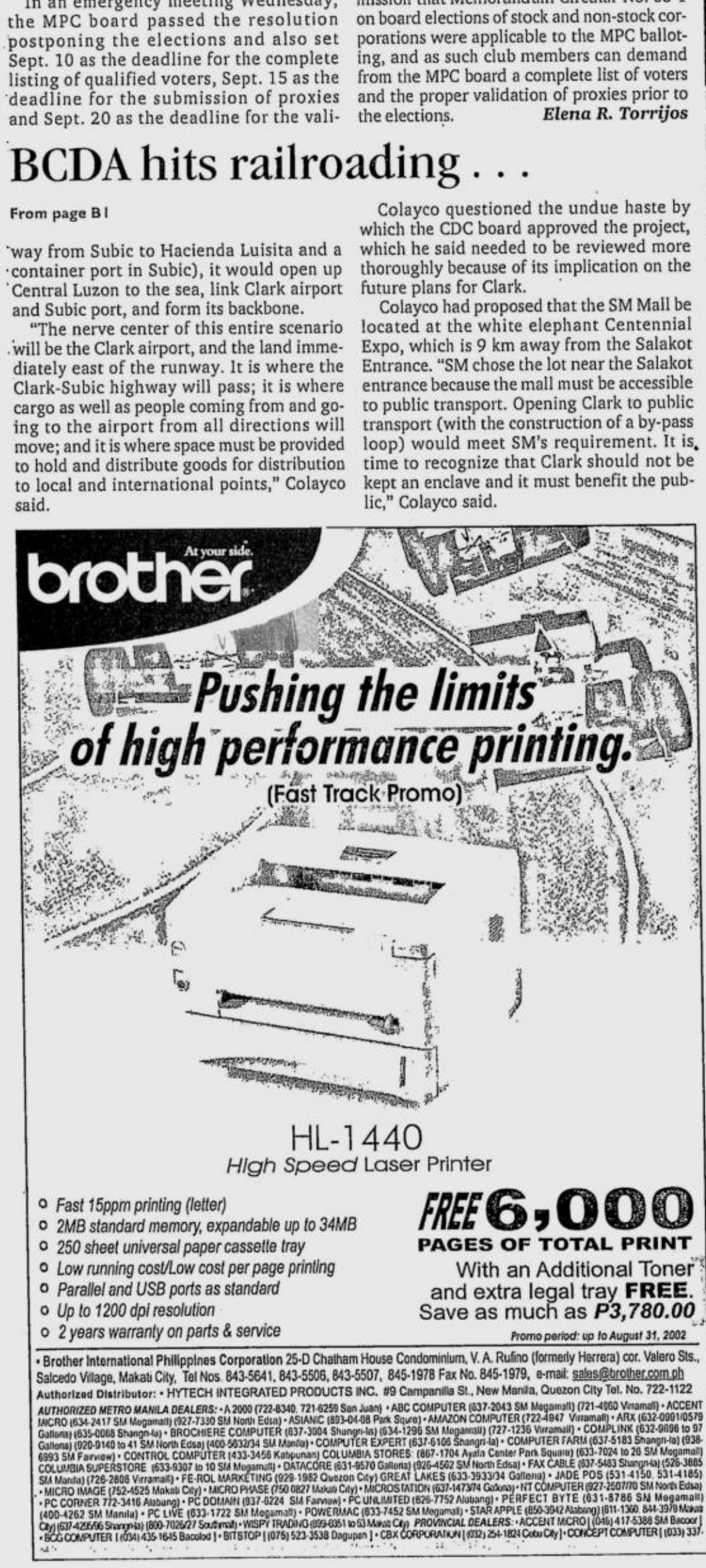

A heavenly depot for bargain-crazy shoppers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FILIPINOS are, without doubt, avid shoppers. The proliferation of shopping malls in Metro Manila and in the provinces is proof enough.

The declining purchasing power of the Philippine peso, however, has forced Filipinos to be more prudent in their purchases. The name of the game now is to look for good quality products at cheaper prices, so that Filipinos can afford to shop as often even with fewer pesos in their pockets.

SUCCESS STORY

Providing an outlet for these bargain-hungry Filipino shoppers is Designer Depot Factory Outlet, which was set up in 1999 when the owners, Francisco and Belinda Dy, thought that there must be a way to escape the astronomical rental fees charged by the country's leading malls.

Drawing inspiration from factory outlets in the United States, the young couple decided to convert an idle family lot at the corner of Quirino Avenue in Manila and South Superhighway into a factory outlet using container vans as retail space.

The first outlet was the couple's own Ibiza, an innovative apparel store selling a mix of ladies' and children's clothing at 80 percent off the regular price tag. The couple had Ibiza stores in many of the top malls, but they decided to pull out when they felt that the rentals were just too high.

Designer Depot was quite off the beaten shopping track, but people flocked to the Ibiza store when they sniffed a good bargain, and soon, more shoppers came in and asked for more.

Factory outlet mall

"The store proved its worth as a good business. Ibiza's sales performance zoomed in the first four months without the boost of any advertising effort," said Tyrone Tolete, Designer Depot advertising and promotions manager.

"Ibiza did show its promise and exhibited buying power and profitability even if only a few customers knew that it existed in the market. Because of this, the owners of Ibiza were inspired with the outcome and decided to go for an expansion and turn it into a venue for local retailing ventures," Tolete added.

From Ibiza, Designer Depot started accepting tenants willing to conform with the couple's idea of offering products to the customers that cost at least 20 percent less than the price for the same or comparative product in the mall.

The move gave birth to the "factory outlet mall" concept, a new format in the Philippines' retail industry.

The Dys have taken pains to make it a pleasurable shopping experience. They believe a mall outlet selling bargain items should not look like it's down in the dumps. So they have designed their outlets with a California theme in mind, with a landscape and a garden atmosphere that take the shoppers' minds off the heat.

Designer Depot now has 80 shops occupying about 15 square meters of space either on the ground level or second floor of its container vans. Offering products at bargain prices are clothing giants like Levi's, Lee, Jag, Dockers, GBX, Maldita, Company B, Freego, Hanes, Bench, Particles, Pink Soda, Folded and Hung, Ritratto, Skechers, Kickers, Big and Small Co., Durante Perrie, Fred Perrie and Converse.

There are also non-branded surplus shops that offer clothing, shoes and accessories that jive with the latest trends in the fashion industry. There are also stores that offer home accessories.

Tolete says many traders from the provinces flock to Designer Depot to haul bargain items and sell them at big profits in the provinces.

Price-conscious buyers are happy to note that there are clothes that sell for less than a dollar and branded products of Levi's, Jag and Lee at 70 percent off their tag price.

Affordable rent

Tolete says tenants can afford to pass on a lot of savings to customers because the rent is very affordable.

A small 4 x 4 square meter stall in Greenhills, which is also considered a bargain center, costs as much as P40,000 a month. Designer Depot, on the other hand, charges only P15,000 for ground floor stalls and P13,500 for 15-square-meter spaces on the second floor.

"We make sure that they pass on the savings to the customers. As soon as they submit the letter of intent, we tell them that their products should sell for at least 20 percent cheaper than the same product in the mall. We have a team that monitors the prices," Tolete said.

DESIGNER Depot pioneered the factory outlet mall concept in the Philippines in 1999. It offers a cheaper location for entrepreneurs.

As a result, some 25 percent of the tenants in Designer Depot are entrepreneurs in their 20s who are going to business for the first time. They are encouraged to try their hand in business because the cost outlay is not that big.

"We also have a waiting list of tenants because we also offer free one-month rent to our tenants, so that they can test the market. When it is the low season, we provide discounts to unbranded stores to help them," Tolete said.

Designer Depot attracts mostly students and young executives during weekdays and whole families during weekends. They can shop and eat in one of the many refreshment outlets. It is a beehive of activity in the evenings, when students and workers knock off from work or school.

Most of them come from Manila and nearby cities like Makati and Pasay.

The formula worked so well in the Manila site that Designer Depot has opened a second outlet along Shaw Boulevard. It was soft opened in July. The grand opening is scheduled for October, when all 85 specialty stores are expected to operate.

Designer Depot is also working on its expansion in Lipa City, Batangas, and San Fernando, Pampanga.

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Palace assumes leasehold rights to Mile Long

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MALACAÑANG has decided to assume all leasehold rights to the Mile Long strip in Makati and dissolve the Philippine Development Alternatives Foundation, which is leasing the 2.2-hectare property.

In an interview, Ranier Butalid, counsel of National Power Corp., which owns the strip, said a meeting last week among agencies involved in the issue resulted in a decision to dissolve PDAF by Sept. 30.

Butalid said the meeting was attended by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Waldo Flores, Napocor officer in charge Roland Quilala and representatives from the Office of the Solicitor General and PDAF.

"PDAF has agreed to turn over all leasehold rights, as well as all money deposits in its possession, to the national government by end of September," Butalid said.

He added that the national government would then decide how best to privatize the properties.

Butalid said it was foreseen that the original sub-lessees would be given preferential rights to the property "upon the determination of (its) value."

Carlos Rufino, president of Sunvar Realty Development Corp., which is subleasing the Mile Long strip, expressed surprise that PDAF would be dissolved.

"How can they do this when PDAF has an existing agreement with and obligation to us?" Rufino asked.

Sunvar Realty's 25-year leasehold will expire on Dec. 31.

Last month, Rufino said Sunvar Realty had already paid for the second 25 years of the lease contract since the deal with PDAF provided for an automatic renewal.

Juan Miguel Laurel, president of the Mile Long Association that groups leaseholders in the 2.2-hectare strip, said the national government would have to honor the terms of the contract.

"If the government is assuming all the leasehold rights, it should also take the responsibility of implementing the contract, which gives us another 25 years," Laurel told the INQUIRER.

Napocor's Butalid said last month that the state firm would not renew the lease and instead sell the property following the move to privatize all of Napocor's assets.

The privatization of the Makati properties will affect a total of 12.5 hectares of prime property, including Ecology Village, parts of Don Bosco church, a Manila Electric Co. substation and Makati's post office and fire station.

Of the total land area, the national government and Napocor owns 77 percent and 23 percent, respectively.

SOCIAL security fund applicants pick up their forms from an employee of the Social Security System in the pension fund's Quezon City headquarters. SSS president Corazon de la Paz has urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to authorize an increase in members' contributions, which is now 8.4 percent of a private employees' monthly income. The pension fund for millions of private sector employees could run out of money within 10 years because of low contributions and anemic returns on its investments. AFP

BOP surplus at $1.9B in 5 months

By Doris C. Dumlao

STRONG dollar inflows allowed the country to chalk up a balance of payment surplus of $1.89 billion in the first five months of the year, reversing a $797-million deficit posted in the same period last year, according to central bank data released yesterday.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura attributed the surplus to a rise in the current account surplus and a substantial improvement in capital and financial accounts.

BOP figures reflect a record of all transactions made by one particular country with others during a certain time period. It compares the amount of economic transactions between a country and all other countries. This includes trade balance, foreign investments and investments by foreigners, among other things.

The current account surplus for the same period stood at $3.182 billion, against the $2.484-billion surplus recorded for January to April period.

Higher net inflows in the income account, lower net outflows in the services account and a sustained surplus in the goods account contributed to an improvement in the current account, Buenaventura said.

With the world economic slump slowing down last year, the country's trade-in-goods account also continued to perform strongly.

Exports posted a double-digit growth rate for the second consecutive month at 13.8 percent in May, bringing total export receipts for the first five months of the year to $13.42 billion, up 3.1 percent from a year ago.

The improved export receipts were brought about by increased demand from Asian markets, particularly Taiwan, China, South Korea, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Manila Polo Club Inc.

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF THE MANILA POLO CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTIONS

To All Members:

Notice is hereby given that by a resolution unanimously passed by the Board of Directors of Manila Polo Club, Inc. at its Emergency Meeting held in the late afternoon of August 21, 2002 where a quorum was present and acting, the Annual General Membership meeting scheduled on August 26, 2002 has been postponed thirty days from said date or to September 25, 2002 to enable the Club and the Board of Directors to comply with the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") Memorandum Circular No. 05-01 dated May 23, 2001 and SEC Memorandum Circular No. 5 (Series of 1996) dated August 6, 1996.

This decision was prompted by the letter of SEC Chairperson Lilia R. Bautista addressed to Atty. Ricardo J. Romulo dated 16 August 2002 and received by the Club on August 21, 2002 to the effect that the Club is covered by the aforesaid circulars.

Hence, pursuant to SEC Memorandum Circular No. 5 (Series of 1996) dated August 6, 1996, the board has fixed September 5, 2002 as the record date and only members on record as of that date will be entitled to vote. A list of members entitled to vote will be submitted to SEC on or before September 10, 2002.

Guided by the said Circular, the board is encouraging all members to submit their proxies (should they be unable to attend) not later than September 15, 2002. Although this date is a Sunday, the Office of the General Manager will be open to receive the proxies in behalf of the Corporate Secretary. All proxies will be validated on September 20, 2002 by the Special Committee of Inspectors which will be created by the board.

New notices for the September 25, 2002 Annual General Membership Meeting and new proxy forms, compliant with the said circular, will be sent to all members on or before September 11, 2002.

For your information and guidance.

Makati City, Metro Manila, August 22, 2002.

CESAR J. BAUTISTA
Corporate Secretary

Ethics of resignation

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

RESIGNATIONS by a Raul Roco, a Tito Guingona, a Makati corporate executive or a lowly rank-and-file worker in a sweatshop in Caloocan should be characterized with some degree of decency or grace. Regardless of the reasons of their separations, the employee and the employer should, at least, be civil to each other. After all, they have had their years together. They have gone through a lot together. *Sayang naman and kanilang pinagsamahan.*

By analogy, resignations take the nature of a marital break-up through annulment, divorce or legal separation. Whatever the reason is, the parties must be able to formulate a *modus vivendi*, a win-win, bloodless compromise. If there is such a thing as ante-nuptial and post-nuptial contracts, there certainly could be a post-employment agreement.

Leave and let leave

When the proper time comes to part ways or the opportunity for seeking other windows of opportunities presents itself, the manner of disclosure to the employer should be handled with utmost prudence at a very opportune time and with some degree of finesse. The employee should give the employer enough time; the law requires 30 days. But if the job is highly confidential or extremely technical that replacements are difficult to find, the departing personnel should endeavor to allow a longer time.

The employer should also behave professionally, never trying to manifest antagonism or spite and confronting the inevitable reality that companies or governments don't own their executives and human resources. Employees have their own lives to live, their own destinies to pursue. There is no such thing as disapproving a resignation for such will be tantamount to involuntary servitude, a scheme that has been declared illegal by no less than our Constitution. All resignations are irrevocable. None should be or could be disapproved.

No resignation covenants

There are firms that pirate top executives from competing corporations. In pirating these hotshots, employers pay handsome packages called "goodwill bonus" or "signing bonanza." There are firms also that invest thousands of dollars sending their top corporate officers to business schools like AIM or UAP (University of Asia and the Pacific) or even Harvard, Yale, Stanford or other Ivy League institutions of higher learning. To guarantee that these guys for whom they spent a lot of money will stay put, they ask them to sign contracts to stay or serve for at least a year.

If the contract is indefinite, that will be contrary to public policy for none can bind an employee to stay forever. If the duration is limited, it can be valid. However, for practical purposes, this is one contract that is very difficult to enforce. My research into Philippine labor jurisprudence has yielded no single case where an employer has pursued this in court, much less did so successfully.

Mutual voluntary restitutions

If, however, there is no plausible remedy in courts of law or equity, there is such a thing as good taste or *delicadeza*. There is ethics and good manners. Executives who leave the company after attending all kinds of foreign training or local seminars should examine their conscience, whether or not they should leave just like that.

In the same manner that employers are duty-bound to restitute their employees for whatever out-of-pocket expenses they have incurred in the course of performing their official functions, it stands to reason that resigning employees should think seriously of reimbursing the cost of training if and when they decide to leave before serving the company within a reasonable amount of time after the schooling. That is true with or without a written contract to that effect.

Rituals of resignation

A good employer is expected to call his employee to a private conference in case the former has an issue against the latter. Before anyone else should know, the personnel concerned should be informed of the nature of the charges against him. This is not just due process. This is good manners. This is not just the law. This is ethics in corporate behavior.

A good employee does not broadcast his resignation via national television, without conferring first with his employer in private. If it was the employer who committed a lapse in proper protocol, the exemplary employee should rise above emotions and do the proper thing, which was to seek an audience with the employer and clear the air once and for all. They should not part ways leaving a bad taste in both their mouths.

Grace of goodbyes

The admirable thing about the Guingona affair was that the Vice President humbled himself by exercising extraordinary diligence in seeking out the President even after a series of blunders emanating from underlings who failed to undertake the proper protocol.

Tito even pursued the President in Davao, where the two top guns had a heart-to-heart tête-à-tête. And the Guingonas tendered a party in their New Manila residence. The President, with grace and splendor, attended the reception even after Tito's resignation was accepted. That is the way men and women of good breeding should behave and model good behaviors before the people they are supposed to lead.

Life must go on

Even after resignations, the business of the corporation should go on. Even after divorce or annulment, life does not end. Companies and people continue to operate and struggle in business and life that are both competitive and exciting.

Resignations should not yield ill will or deep anxieties. I know of many former corporate executives who have remained as consultants to their former bosses. I know of former spouses who are closer after their break-up. A case of lovers becoming friends. There is always a pleasant way to say even the most unpleasant goodbye.

Mabuhay reports ₱55-M net

By Abigail L. Ho

MABUHAY Philippines Satellite Corp., a subsidiary of dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., reported yesterday a net income of P55.5 million from revenues of P760 million in the first half of the year, with full-year earnings seen doubling these figures.

Mabuhay president and chief executive Gabriel Pimentel told reporters that the satellite service provider was keeping its revenue target at a level realistic enough to achieve in a soft economy.

Full-year revenues were projected to be around the P1.5-billion to P1.6-billion level, about the same as in the past two years.

He explained that satellite firms all over the world had been registering below-target revenues this year.

Mabuhay is no exemption as its first-half revenues fell by more than 3 percent from last year's P790 million.

This decline was caused by rising insurance costs, declining market prices and stiffer competition, Pimentel said.

The firm's main clients—telecommunications companies—were also feeling the pinch of a slumping economy, implementing cost-cutting measures to stay afloat.

Mabuhay was also seeing competition from other satellite operators and from terrestrial fiber facilities that could provide transmission services that satellite firms provided.

Because of this, Pimentel said, Mabuhay would focus its efforts on forming alliances with foreign satellite service providers to penetrate the international satellite market.

"We're looking to grow our bottom line by strongly addressing the international market, including India, China and Indonesia as key markets. But to do this, we need a strong collaboration with other satellite operators in those countries. We're already engaged in active discussions with these operators on how to complement each other's services," he said.

7-mo. budget gap

From page B1

resistance of the BIR personnel to the reform measures initiated by former Commissioner Rene Bañez," the DOF chief admitted.

Moving forward, Camacho said the government would work even harder to make revenues the driver for achieving its fiscal goals.

"Reforming the BIR by its very nature is a long process but over the past few months, we have quickly put in place the necessary measures that provide the foundation for enforcing and increasing tax collection," Camacho said.

Bañez's interim successor, Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison, was mandated to focus on fully institutionalizing and implementing key administrative measures initiated by the former BIR commissioner. These include the e-filing and payment system, the value added tax relief, VAT audit and internal audit systems.

MAJOR PROJECTS IN PIPELINE

Peza expects to surpass 2001 investments

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority is optimistic that it would surpass its investments last year with major expansion projects of giant electronic and semiconductor firms in the pipeline.

Peza director general Lilia de Lima said the Philippines remained on the radar screen of most investors despite the prevailing doom and gloom in the economy and the diversion of foreign direct investments into China.

"We don't think we could afford to be despondent over the country's prospects because if we ourselves are not confident about our future, foreign investors would not come in," De Lima said.

"We are confident we can exceed last year's investment figures," she added.

De Lima said most electronic and semiconductor firms have informed the Peza of their decision to proceed with their expansion programs in the country that have been put on hold by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and the slowdown in demand for computers and electronic products.

Peza's optimism on the country's prospects contrasts sharply with the Board of Investments, which is continuing to blame the Sept. 11 attacks for its anemic investment haul.

BOI reported that registered investments dropped 64.26 percent to P11.81 billion in the first five months this year from P33.04 billion during the same period last year.

Data furnished by Peza showed that investments in new export enterprises reached P11.964 billion in the first six months this year, 85 percent higher than the P6.313 billion during the same period last year.

Although total Peza investments are 15-percent down to P17.6 billion in the first half this year from P20.8 billion a year ago, Peza is bullish that big projects in the pipeline would start pouring in the second half this year.

At least 60 percent of all goods churned in the ecozones are electronic products and semiconductors. Peza investments fell to a five-year low of P35.7 billion last year.

DE LIMA

RP sees coconut oil price spike due to declining domestic supply

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINE Coconut Authority said on Thursday that it expected prices of coconut oil in the world market to hit at least $500 per ton due partly to declining supply from the Philippines.

PCA Administrator Danilo Coronacion told reporters that the output of copra, or dried coconut flesh from which oil is extracted, is expected to fall to 2.3 million tons this year from 2.85 million tons in 2001.

Production for the first six months hit 870,312 tons compared with 1.19 million tons reached in the same period last year. Export earnings was also lower at $261.2 million from last year's $297.19 million.

Coronacion said copra output would fall further to 1.5 million tons in 2003.

"There is a possibility it (coconut oil) might hit $500/ton due to anticipated low production in the Philippines, global shortage in supply of fats and oil, and the anticipated decrease in supply in palm oil," Coronacion said.

Coconut oil was quoted at $442.50/ton in Europe as of Wednesday.

COPRA prices are expected to hit at least $500 per ton

This raised domestic copra prices to P10.60 per kilo at the farm gate compared with P4-P5 in the same period last year. Prices could even hit the P13-P15 level if world prices hit $600 per ton.

Analysts have said that coconut trees produce smaller and fewer nuts after two years of good output.

The PCA said the decline in the world production of vegetable oils such as palm oil has been beneficial to the trade of Philippine coconut oil in international markets, which could directly benefit local coconut farmers.

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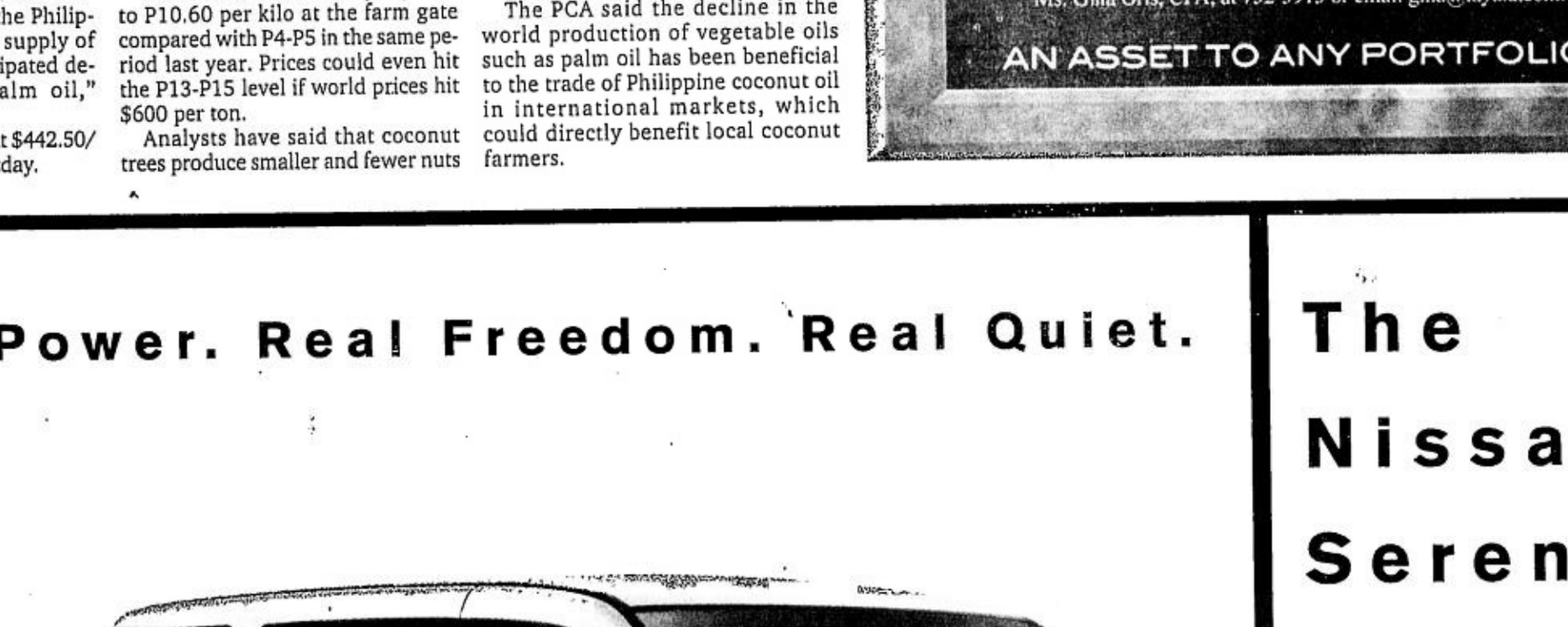

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Former Enron exec pleads guilty

HOUSTON, Texas—A former executive at Enron Corp. pleaded guilty Monday to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering, in what officials called a milestone in their efforts to build a criminal case against the bankrupt energy trader's former management.

Michael Kopper, 37, also agreed to cooperate with authorities in their probe into the spectacular collapse of the energy trader late last year, and forfeit $12 million.

"Today Michael Kopper has accepted personal responsibility for his role in the Enron tragedy," said his lawyer David Howard.

"Michael hopes that these actions demonstrate his deep regret for his own conduct. He apologizes to all whose lives have been affected by what he did."

Under his plea agreement with prosecutors, the former managing director of Enron Global Finance admitted using his position at the Houston-based company to enrich himself and others, Howard said.

In his position as director of Enron's off-balance-sheet partnerships, Kopper used his authority to siphon off millions of dollars for both himself and his boss, Andrew Fastow, Enron's former chief financial officer, according to the official charge sheet.

When he quit in August 2001, for example, Kopper pocketed $10.5 million from a partnership called Chewco, after investing just $125,000 of his own money in it.

On one occasion, he also wired more than $4 million from one of Enron's off-balance-sheet partnerships to a bogus charity set up by Fastow.

The partnerships were the financial tools that allowed Enron executives to keep millions of dollars in losses off its corporate balance sheet, disguising the true state of its financial affairs from Wall Street.

But they began to unravel in late 2001 when the Securities and Exchange Commission began to probe the company's financial bookkeeping.

That investigation triggered a series of events which ended with Enron filing for bankruptcy Dec. 2—then the biggest US corporate bankruptcy in history—robbing its investors and employees of millions of dollars, and in some cases wiping out their life savings. *AFP*

WB pushes rich nations to save future generations

THE WORLD will deteriorate into a grim home for 9 billion people, many of them impoverished, in 50 years unless rich countries act now, the World Bank said Wednesday.

World leaders must agree on the steps when they gather at the UN Earth Summit in Johannesburg, starting Monday, the bank said in its annual World Development Report.

Asked about the prospects for the Johannesburg summit in light of US President George W. Bush's decision to give it a miss, World Bank spokesperson Caroline Anstey told a news conference: "We are owned by 183 countries not by one."

Ian Johnson, vice president of the World Bank and head of its environmental network, expressed some regret.

"The United States are sending a strong delegation but it would have been nice to have every head of state," Johnson said.

The World Bank report estimated that the world population would grow to 9 billion people by 2050, stabilizing at the end of this century at 10 billion or less.

Two-thirds of the planet would live in cities, placing enormous demands on resources for energy, water, housing and education.

"The $140-trillion world of five decades' time simply cannot be sustained on current production and consumption patterns," World Bank chief economist Nicholas Stern said.

"A major transformation—beginning in the rich countries—will be needed to ensure that poor people have an opportunity to participate and that the environment is not damaged in a way that undermines their opportunities for the future."

The average income in the richest 20 countries was already 37 times that of the poorest 20 nations.

In the world, 1.3 million people lived on fragile lands such as arid zones, wetlands and forests that could not sustain them. The gap between rich and poor countries had doubled in 40 years.

Stern pressed rich countries to act first, chiding them for spending lots of money protecting their own farmers, and pricing the needy farm-exporting countries out of the world market. *AFP*

Japan vulnerable to firm yen, US weakness despite stable markets

TOKYO—Japan's export-led recovery is vulnerable to a double whammy of US weakness and relative yen strength, even as Wall Street stabilizes and the dollar rebounds from lows of recent months, analysts said.

Panic over the crisis in corporate America has waned, along with a reversal in speculative selling of both the dollar and US equities in past weeks.

However, data out of the United States is still mostly soft, suggesting the recovery there will remain slow at best and in turn threaten the outlook for Japanese exports to both the United States and Asia, said Tokyo-based analysts.

Exports will also face pressure from yen strength, relative to levels seen at the start of the year, as current account related flows and disappointing US data provide support for the Japanese currency.

Minori Takeuchi, foreign exchange analyst at the Tokyo branch of JP Morgan Chase, noted that although Wall Street and the dollar were recovering from recent sharp losses, the US economy still seemed too feeble to push either much higher.

"I think the forex market sees risks on both sides. I don't know how long confidence in the US will last," she said, noting the importance of a shift by the Federal Reserve to a weakening bias for recently improving sentiment.

"Only consumers are enjoying (lower rates) but at least the Fed is ready to move," Takeuchi said.

Others also noted the possibility of at least a partial reversal of short-term money flows that have helped lift US stocks by around 20 percent since late July, as well as the risk for US bonds of dashed hopes for rate cuts.

"Judging from the current state of the economy, the likelihood is that, once this rally has run out of steam, share prices will either move sideways or fall back again," said Hidenao Miyajima, strategist at Commerzbank Securities.

"Japanese, European and Asian investment funds have together poured over $15 billion (into US fixed-income securities). If the US authorities do not implement swift monetary policy changes, these investors could start pulling out," he said. *AFP*

Singapore holds $126B in offshore investments

SINGAPORE—Singapore's offshore investments totaled $126 billion at the end of 2000, most of it tied up in Asia with China the main beneficiary, the government said Thursday.

However, the $10-billion or 4.8-percent expansion for the year was significantly lower than the $32-billion, 18-percent growth, in 1999 following the end of the Asian financial crisis.

Portfolio investments and other foreign assets continued to show growth, but the bulk of Singapore's offshore funds are in direct investments at $91.9 billion, which were down nearly a billion dollars on the previous year.

"While portfolio investment and other foreign assets registered positive growth of 15 percent and 6.6 percent respectively in 2000, direct investment declined marginally by 0.8 percent," the statistics department report said.

Within direct investments, equity shares in overseas subsidiaries rose 6.3 percent, concentrated in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, China, South Korea and Malaysia "where the economic outlook was generally more optimistic."

Reserves of affiliates attributable to Singapore companies gained 3.9 percent, however loans granted by parent companies declined 16 percent.

"Asia remained the most attractive location for Singapore's direct investment abroad accounting for nearly three-fifths" or $53.5 billion, the report said.

China was the largest recipient accounting for $15 billion or 16 percent, followed by Malaysia with $9.2 billion and Hong Kong with $7.7 billion *AFP*

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE THE CITY MAYOR
City of Davao

Madayaw na Dabaw!

This Kadayawan sa Dabaw Festival 2002 will spur public interest on the city's natural sites and its rich culture. On top of the tourist influx, the conduct of the Kadayawan festivities will spark interest and appreciation of the arts and diverse culture of our city.

As annual thanksgiving for the abundant harvest, Kadayawan is one of the two m ain festivals in our city. Highlighted in this activity will be the solemn rituals of the tribes, their rhythmic dancesteps and chanting music intimately interwoven with the rich customs and traditions of migrants, this city being known to be as melting pot of the south.

Amongthe activities, Kadayawan festivities will kick-off with a formal opening ritual with ecumenical ceremony, the Pasasalamat. This five-day event to start off on July 22, 2002 will surely be a colorful and fun-filled activity for all especially for the Dabawenyo families.

We also an ticipate the influx of the foreign and domestic tourist for indeed, this time of the year a special occasion where the richness of the world class Dabawenyo culture and products are being showcased.

Let us all be united in this very special occasion, setting aside our differences. Further, it is worthwhile to impart the important contributions and active participation of the private sector in making this activity to happen. Everyone's contribution to peace and order is everyone's contribution to constant economic development thus, our theme: Kahusay, Kaharuhay Kanunay.

I invite all of you to come and see Davao City during our Kadayawan 2002 Festivities.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

RODRIGO R. DUTERTE
City Mayor

KADAYAWAN SA DAVAO FOUNDATION, INC.
City of Davao

The City Government of Davao and its partners from the private sectors and civil society collectively promote a different pathway of development, a recognition of how culture can boost individual human growth and social development.

Such is the substance okf the 17th Kadayawan sa Dabaw Festival, taking pride on the people's engagements towards a sustaining peace and equitable development - Kahusay, Kaharuhay Kanunay.

This colorful festival of people's culture-environment and industry has gone Mindanaoan in perspective and extent. Indeed the tri-peoples of Mindanao - the indigenous, the Muslim Filipinos and the Christian settlers from all over the island are celebrate with the Davaoeños as they participate in the various cultural events and merrymaking.

Join us as we weave the colorful tapestry of the Mindanaoan's creativity and vision of a fairer world where the people's sense of aesthetics, traditions and industry are cradled in a warm demonstration of the generosity and bigheartedness of the Davaoeños.

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S. Korea Q2 GDP up 1.4%

SEOUL—South Korea's economy grew 1.4 percent in the second quarter, down from a 1.9-percent rise in the previous three months, as growth in consumer spending and construction slowed, the central bank said on Thursday.

Growth in Asia's third largest economy is still expected to outstrip most of the region in 2002 despite concerns that softer US demand could hinder export growth.

"There was a slower increase in construction investment and consumer spending during the second quarter, while growth in facilities investments and exports accelerated," the BOK said in a statement accompanying the preliminary growth data.

Second quarter GDP rose 6.3 percent from the same quarter last year, slightly below an average forecast of 6.4 percent by 10 economists polled by Reuters this week.

Analysts said the second half outlook was now looking hazy.

"We had expected exports to drive economic growth in the second half, but now we have to worry about a strong won and concerns about the pace of US economic recovery," Kim Giseung, an economist at LG Economic Research Institute, said.

"Consumer spending and construction are expected to slow further," he added.

Risks to growth include external factors such as a stuttering economy in the United States, South Korea's largest trade partner, and the impact of a stronger won on exports.

Reuters

RIGHT ON TRACK

Fed officials see bumpy recovery

READING, Pennsylvania—Senior Federal Reserve officials said on Wednesday the current low level of borrowing costs should foster continued economic expansion, albeit a halting one, a sign the central bank is in no rush to cut interest rates.

In their first public comments explaining the central bank's decision last week to leave interest rates unchanged at four-decade lows, Fed officials conceded the recovery had been slower than expected, but said the central bank should not try to smooth out every bump in the road.

US Treasury bonds sold off after the remarks dashed traders' lingering expectations for a rate cut in the near term.

Three presidents of regional Federal Reserve Banks on Wednesday all stressed the recovery, though choppy, remained on track and suggested the economy was not in need of the boost of another rate cut.

"I believe the Fed's current monetary policy stance is appropriately supportive of the recovery process," said Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia president Anthony Santomero, a voting member of the Fed's interest-rate setting committee.

San Francisco Fed president Robert Parry agreed the current level of interest rates is "appropriate," while his colleague at the Chicago Fed, Michael Moskow, said though growth may be uneven, it should return to potential in coming quarters. Neither is a voting member of the policy committee this year.

The recovery from last year's recession has been rocky and the economy seemed to hit an air pocket over the summer, with weakness widespread across the manufacturing sector, the labor market, consumer confidence and weekly chain store sales.

That prompted some investment banks on Wall Street to call for further rate cuts from the Federal Reserve by the end of the year to shore up growth.

But in cautiously optimistic comments on Wednesday, Fed officials suggested they had done enough already.

Santomero said he expected economic activity to gradually pick up through the rest of the year and return to trend growth of 3 to 4 percent in 2003, adding it was "most unlikely" the United States would fall back into recession.

Moskow too saw a return to trend growth over coming quarters, though he pegged it at the slightly lower pace of 3 to 3.5 percent.

Economists said the comments suggested the Federal Reserve was in no rush to lower rates again.

"They're saying we have a soft patch in the economy, but a double-dip recession is not likely," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. "Just because they see the risks tilted toward weakness doesn't mean they are going to cut rates."

Reuters

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Management

Calendar of Events

Festival Events:

August 22 Thursday
"Pasiugda"

Pasalamat
The formal opening ritual of the Kadayawan sa Dabaw Festival with ecumenical ceremony.

Hiyas sa Kadayawan
A search for Festival Queen with Mindanawon appeal to promote Davao City and Mindanao.

Canada Day in Davao

August 23 Friday
"Adlaw sa Kagikan"

Pamukaw
A musical wake-up call done by the "lumads" roaming down the streets of the city to remind the residents of their ancestral beginnings and the significance of the celebration.

Davao River Festival
A celebration performed in the city's historic Davao River to bring to the fore the beginnings of Davao community and the ecological concerns of the Davaowenos.

Bagobo Horsefight
A famous Bagobo tradition where native stallions are made to compete for a chosen mare.

Davao Indigenous Peoples Festival
A tribute to the tribal elders fostering inter-generational legacy. A showcase of Davao's indigenous culture culminating in traditional songs and dances and the presentation of their respective "Bya-nengs".

Canada Day in Davao

Mindanao Indigenous Dance Festival (MIDF)
Theatrical tribal suites of dances and music depicting Mindanao indigenous epics, folklores and traditions rendered by Davao and Mindanao's many arts and culture groups.

August 24 Saturday
"Adlaw sa Katawhan"

Indak-Indak sa Kadalanan (Children Category)
A people's celebration through street dancing and merriment to the beat of tribal music on the major streets.

Indak-Indak sa Kadalanan (Adult Category)
Participated by more senior performers and winners of street dancing in other festivals in Mindanao.

Yanog ug Yugyugan sa Kadalanan
Part of the celebration are the simultaneous concerts and whole night partying at Matina Town Square, The Venue and Rizal Street.

August 25 Sunday
"Adlaw sa Kapanginuhaan"

Floral Float Parade
A parade of florally dressed floats of various shapes and sizes showcasing the abundant vegetation of the Region.

Kadayawan Sale
A city-wide sale participated by all retail establishments including malls, shopping centers, department stores, hotels and restaurants.

Halad ni Mayor sa Dakbayan
A thank-you concert hosted by the City Mayor featuring the nation's top bands and singers.

Continuing Events:

Agro-Industrial Trade Fairs - A Mindanao trade fair participated by farmers, plant growers, handicraft producers and manufacturers
Horticulture Exhibits - A landscape of flowers and ornamentals as well as competitive displays of indigenous flora species like waling-waling.
Davao Art Exhibits - An exposition of Mindanao tribal arts, selected photography and paintings by Davao artists.
Photo Contest - A competition open to both amateur and professional photographers who will visualize, record and document the Kadayawan festivities.
Technical Fora - A package of seminars related to ecology and horticulture particularly those that are indigenous to Davao and its environs.

Concept and Design by Tata Lao of MindaNews for KSDFI

AOL, AT&T split partnership

NEW YORK—AOL Time Warner Inc. on Wednesday announced a deal worth up to $9 billion to disband an entertainment partnership with AT&T.

AOL said it was taking complete control over Time Warner Entertainment, an asset that includes Warner Bros. film studios, Home Box Office entertainment and interests in Comedy Central and Court TV.

AT&T, the world's biggest telecommunications company, would give up its 27.3-percent stake in Time Warner Entertainment under a complex cash and equity arrangement.

In return, AT&T would be paid $2.1 billion in cash and about $1.5 billion worth of AOL Time Warner common stock.

AT&T also would get a 21-percent stake in a new cable company, Time Warner Cable, which is to hold all of the AOL Time Warner cable assets, the two sides said.

The final cost to AOL would depend on the price of equity involved and the value of the 21-percent stake.

A source close to the deal said the entire transaction could be worth $7 billion to $9 billion, depending on the value the market placed on the new company, Time Warner Cable, which is to sold to the public in the first half of 2003.

"Through this restructuring, we will simplify our overall structure while maintaining the integrity of our balance sheet," said AOL Time Warner chief executive Dick Parsons.

"AOL Time Warner will recapture total ownership and control of its content businesses, enabling us to manage this portfolio of assets for maximum value," he added.

"And all of the company's state-of-the-art cable assets will be combined for the first time into a well-capitalized, pure-play cable company," Parsons added.

Investors liked the agreement, which followed eight years of wrangling over financial details.

AOL shares surged 63 cents, or 4.72 percent, to $13.99 in early afternoon trade. AT&T shares advanced 64 cents, or 5.72 percent, to $11.82.

AT&T said the deal would allow the group to pay off debt.

AFP

Hutchison H1 net seen lower

HONG KONG—Without the benefit of one-off trading gains investors have grown used to, tycoon Li Ka-shing's ports-to-telecoms conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. is expected to post a sharp drop in first-half profits when it releases results on Thursday.

Hutchison, the world's biggest container port operator and perhaps the most bullish investor in third-generation (3G) mobile telecommunications, is expected to report an interim profit of HK$4.78 billion (US$612.8 million), according to the average forecasts of nine analysts surveyed by Reuters.

Weakness in its energy business and lower income from its treasury operation are also expected to contribute to a forecast earnings drop of 33.5 percent from the HK$7.19 billion in the same period last year.

Absent one-time interim gains a year earlier of HK$1.9 billion, Hutchison would have posted profit of HK$5.29 billion, implying a forecast drop of 9.5 percent in recurring earnings.

"Ports are going to be the star performer," said ING Barings analyst Cusson Leung, who forecasts a net profit of HK$4.69 billion and has a "hold" rating on Hutchison.

"But ports will be offset by lower treasury income and also a decline in Husky income," he said.

Hutchison owns 35 percent of Canadian oil company Husky Energy Inc., which earlier this month posted a 12-percent drop in second quarter profit on weaker gas prices.

Leung expects profits from Hutchison's ports business before interest and taxes to rise by 20 percent, thanks to surging throughput at its Yantian operation in southern China, as well as growth in its Hong Kong ports.

Analysts said they don't expect any major exceptional items.

"I think most divisions will be unexciting. Perhaps the one bright spot will be the ports side," added SG Securities analyst Robert Sassoon, who expects Hutchison to post a profit of HK$4.764 billion and rates the stock a "buy."

Hutchison shares rose 4.78 percent on Tuesday to HK$54.75, but have still lost more than 27 percent so far this year as investors worried about its huge exposure to the untested 3G telecoms business.

In early 2000, the stock reached HK$139.50.

Rueters

BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Picture the movie (or brand) in your mind

By Roger Pe
Contributor

PICTURE Brad Pitt taking a bottle of Budweiser from the fridge as he ferociously argues with his girl. The beer's froth flows from the mouth of the bottle. Then, we see a shot of the lager with bubbles and all, sensually superimposed on the girl's body. Nicely lit, beautifully shot.

Or Wesley Snipes having a Heineken before a torrid sequence in the kitchen in an all-black cast movie. Or Tom Hanks, marooned in an island somewhere in the Pacific, fighting for his survival in the movie "Castaway." In his plan to escape an impending Robinson Crusoe life, the ubiquitous FedEx boxes must not have escaped your eyes. Notice, too, the Wilson volleyball which he turned into a voodoo friend? Those brands surely made imprints in your memory.

In the opening sequence of the movie "I Am Sam," Starbucks shared stellar roles with Sean Penn's tour de force performance. The strong brand registration of Starbucks which lasted longer than your ordinary 30-second TV commercial must have made you wonder if you were watching a commercial or viewing a movie.

Not to be upstaged, Seattle's Best, Starbuck's aggressive competitor, and Heineken, were in the movie "Swordfish," too.

You must have seen these brands and products implicitly or explicitly shown in the movies. Are they just incidental props or part of the story?

Some of them blend naturally as the story progresses. They go with the flow without being overt and intrusive. Some of them even elicit a chuckle from the audience. But some of them are subliminal but some are quite blatant and may cause some people to say that they are crossing the borderline of private leisure and commercialism. Are they?

"Whatever they are, brands in the movies give advertisers a good deal," says Bobby Caballero, president and executive creative director of Caballero Worldwide. "It associates brands with star celebrities and gives the product a big time look."

As most advertisers strategize on how to weave brands into the consumers' daily lives, movies fit well as unsaturated and uncluttered media.

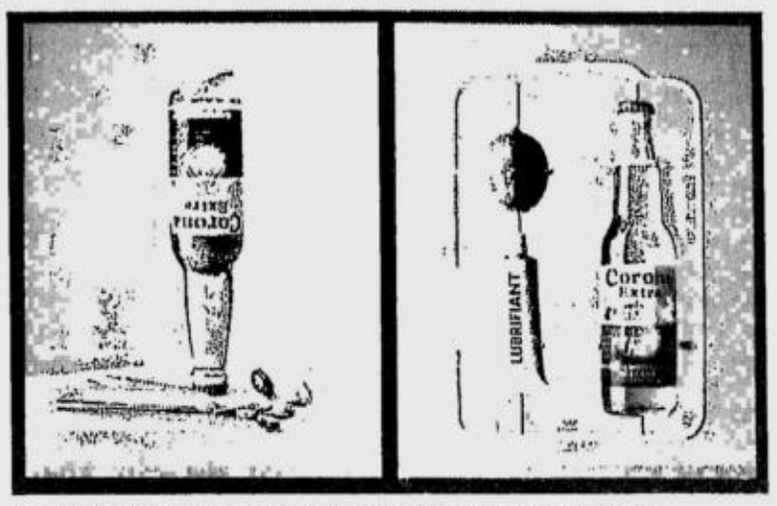
And it works for movie producers who always have to contend with limited budgets. Getting brands into the movies helps provide the cash for the shows.

In the movie "You've Got Mail" starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks, Starbucks enjoyed a hefty presence, boosting its image as a cafe where people meet. Ericsson played not just a cameo but a supporting role in "Tomb Raider." Nike was a scene stealer in "What Women Want." In the latest James Bond movie, Omega and BMW caught our attention aside from 007's gadgets.

Seen "Minority Report?" Mercedes Benz, Bulgari, Lexus, Rockport, Gap, American Express, Nokia and Pepsi were among the, hold your breath, fifteen brands which rode on the crest of Tom Cruise's popularity.

Marlboro was in, forgive the word pun, "Killing Me Softly." Nokia invested heavily on the futuristic movie "Matrix" and "The Panic Room." Pizza Hut was in "Wayne's World." Mattel in "Toy Story." McDonald's in "About A Boy" and "Big Daddy." Corona Beer was in "The Fast and the Furious." Pepsi was in "Ed TV" and "Back To The Future." Dunkin' Donuts was in "While You Were Sleeping." Coke is in practically every Hollywood movie. And "Men In Black" featured RayBan, Sabrett and Motorola. For a bit of trivia, which newspaper did Janet Leigh wrap hundred thousand of dollars worth of money in the Hitchcock movie "Psycho?"

In local movies, Alaska grabbed the limelight in "Minsan Minahal Kita." Some brands did appear in "Gimik, The Movie," "Sana'y Maulit Muli" and "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" and a lot more.



CORONA: The Mexican beer is one of the most agressive in promoting itself through movies.

Just how much do advertisers pay to be part of the story? Big money. The old adage goes: the longer the exposure, the bigger the money.

But is it really worth it? Do advertisers really get a good deal and return on their investments?

"Absolutely, yes," says a well-known marketer. "Imagine the dividends you will harvest when the movie makes a killing at the box office as well as in the Oscars. The pay-offs are certainly mind-boggling. Your brand gets associated with all the positives and successes of the movie."

A veteran accounts management person from McCann-Erickson, however, says "it depends how it's handled. When too overt, it may be invasive and offensive."

Russell Molina, Publicis-AMA head of creative for non-Nestlé accounts, likewise says, "if handled well, it's good for advertisers. In the Philippines, local movies tend to go beyond the subliminal. They overdo it. Viewers become distracted and it ruins the film."

Judith Albano, another Publicis-AMA creative director says, "yes because it is measurable. Just count the money it is raking at the tills to know the answer." DDB media director Alec Pang is optimistic about the possibilities of brand exposure in full-length movies. "There's a psychological impact because it mirrors life and life imitates art."

Why do brave advertisers put their monies in full-length movies? For one, they get their message across. They also get endorsement from celebs. Definitely, having Catherine Zeta Jones or Keanu Reeves use your shampoo brand will have more earthshaking effect than an average TV ad with an obscure talent in it.

Statistics will also show that, in the Philippines alone, movie watching is the number one leisure activity of almost 65 percent of the total population. Found mostly in shopping malls in Metro Manila and key cities, they are very accessible to the average consumer. Per industry estimates, the cinema advertising pie in the Philippines is worth a conservative P150 million a year. Now, multiply that with the movie-going public from the rest of the world. The answer is millions of dollars.

In the future, we may see brave Philippine marketers use Brad Pitt to guzzle a local beer, Julia Roberts to enjoy her filet mignon with a "*pinoy patis* and *suka* brands, Bette Midler munch a crunchy plateful of Lydia's lechon. With the way movies are giving brands a fat recall and consumer top-of-mind awareness, the idea could not be farfetched.

Car assembler smooths way into lubricant mart

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MITSUBISHI Motor Philippines Corp., the country's second biggest vehicle assembler, has placed its brand name on a high-grade, synthetic oil product—Mitsubishi Turbo XP—in its bid to take a foothold in the highly competitive and fast-growing engine lubricant market.

MMPC senior vice president for marketing Melchor R. Dizon says Mitsubishi had long wanted to get into the lubricant business to complement its assembly and marketing operations, but it could not find a suitable supplier that it was confident enough to put its badge on.

AMALIE president Harry Barkett Sr. with a sample of Mitsubishi engine oil

That was until American lubricant giant Amalie Oil Co., through its Philippine licensee Pro Oil Corp., came knocking on its doors.

"In Amalie, we found a fully synthetic oil product which boasted of having a superior grade and cheaper price than country's the leading synthetic motor oil brand,'' he adds.

The Florida-based Amalie is the world's largest independent blender with roughly a billion liters in capacity. It has been in the motor oil business for 99 years and it is one of the leading players in this highly competitive industry in North and Latin America.

About 60 percent of its current sales come from the United States.

The Turbo XP, which was specially blended by Amalie for Mitsubishi has an American Petroleum Institute (API) rating of SL/CF, which is much higher than the prevailing standard (SJ/CF) in the Philippines.

The SL/CF rating means superior temperature resistance (which is suited for Mitsubishi's turbocharged models like the Pajero and Strada), better low temperature performance (easier cold starts and suited for modern technology engines), lower oil consumption (low evaporation rates or boil off which means less oil changes) and cleaner engines (it does not break down or sludge up).

Dizon says the Turbo XP also been rated by the Society of Automotive Engineers as suitable for Mitsubishi gasoline and diesel engines.

"We're sure that once you use the Turbo XP in your next oil change, you'll immediately know the difference," Dizon says.

By selling its own automotive supplies, Dizon says Mitsubishi can generate additional income while giving consumers the best products to pamper their vehicles with.

"Our goal is complete customer satisfaction from the purchase of the unit to after-sales services. Putting our name on the automotive supplies gives our customers confidence that what they are putting in their car is endorsed by its manufacturer," Dizon explains.

Aside from engine oil, Mitsubishi also sells its own radiator coolant, gas and diesel engine fuel system cleaner and automatic transmission fluid. But this does not mean that the Turbo XP is suited only for Mitsubishi vehicles.

"We encourage all vehicles of any brand that need fully synthetic oil to use the Turbo XP because this has the highest grade among its class in the market," Dizon says.

Dizon says Mitsubishi was plunging into the engine lubricant market at a time when vehicle owners were increasingly getting aware of the benefits of fully synthetic oil in keeping their engines in tip-top condition.

"Based on the trend in the past three years, we believe that share of synthetic oil to total engine lubricant sales should increase to 60 percent from 35 percent this year while mineral oil's share would drop to 40 percent," Dizon says.

Engine lubricants have grown an average of 15 percent annually over the last three years from 150 million liters in 1999 to 198 million in 2001 with fully synthetic oil increasing its share during the period from 5 percent to 35 percent.

"We think we can make a strong impact in a market with our superior blend and competitive pricing," says Dizon who is projecting sales of at least 18,000 liters a month to be sold through its 38 dealers and seven authorized parts suppliers nationwide.

Dizon is also looking to supply the engine lubricant requirements of other Mitsubishi assemblers in Asean and China pending approval from its Japan headquarters for the export program.

Training for business 'wannabes'

IF you are among the legions who have business plans at the back of their mind, which they want to realize "sooner or later," the course "Start Your Own Small Business" (SYOB) will interest you.

"Start Your Own Small Business," which will be run by the U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) and the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation (Serdef) from Sept. 7 to Oct. 12 (Saturdays only), has two components: motivation training and business skills training.

The motivation training is about developing creativity, risk-taking, self-confidence, persistence, sense of commitment, persuasiveness and other personal attributes.

"All of us have these attributes, more or less," according to Prof. Ernesto Pineda, UP ISSI director. "Whether these are active or dormant, developed or underdeveloped in individuals, training can provide opportunities for these qualities to be practiced in the classroom in 'simulated business situations.'" *(Please contact Ms Tes Santos at Tel. No. 928-7076-79 or 926-6316, fax 927-1034, or e-mail teresita.santos@up.edu.ph for particulars about the SYOB and other small business courses of the UP ISSI.)*

Limiting representation expenses

By Froi D. Pagayatan
SGV & CO.

TAX-FILES

TAXPAYERS engaged in business or practice of their profession normally claim entertainment, amusement or recreation expenses incurred in their work as deductions from their gross income.

However, to increase revenue collection and curtail perceived abuses of the privilege, the Department of Finance issued Revenue Regulations No. 10-2002 on July 10, 2002, imposing a ceiling on deductible EAR expenses.

Beginning Sept. 1 this year, so-called "representation expenses" shall be limited to a certain percentage of a taxpayer's net sales or revenues.

Deductions from gross income

In computing the taxable income, the taxpayer is allowed to claim certain expenses, including those for EAR, as deductions.

For these business expenses to be deductible, they must be ordinary and necessary and paid or incurred within the taxable year in carrying on a trade or business. The taxpayer must substantially prove his claim by presenting sufficient evidence or records.

Revenue Regulations No. 10-2002 departs from the allowable "reasonable" expenses and imposes a ceiling based on a studied percentage of net sales/revenues.

Under this new scheme, taxpayers engaged in the sale of goods or properties can only deduct EAR expenses up to 0.50 percent of the net sales (i.e., gross sales less sales returns/allowances and sales discounts).

On the other hand, for taxpayers engaged in the sale of services, including the exercise of a profession and use or lease of properties, the deductible amount shall not be more than one percent of net revenue (i.e. gross revenue less discounts).

If the taxpayer derives income from both sale of goods/properties or services, however, the EAR expenses that can be deducted shall be determined based on the following formula:

Total net sales and net revenue

As an illustration, let us assume that a corporation has net sales of P200,000 and net revenues amounting to P100,000 with EAR expenses of P3,000.

Applying the above formula, the EAR expenses for sale of goods is P2,000 computed as follows:

P200,000 (net sales) x P3,000 (actual expense) = P2,000

P300,000 (net sales + net revenue)

However, the corporation cannot deduct the full amount of P2,000 since it is allowed to deduct only .50 percent of its net sales which is equal to P1,000 (P200,000 x .50 percent).

On the other hand, the EAR expenses for sale of services is computed as follows:

P100,000 (net sales) x P3,000 (actual expense) = P1,000

P300,000 (net sales + net revenue)

The corporation can deduct the full amount of P1,000 as EAR expenses for sale of services since it is within the limit of one percent of net revenues (P100,000 x one percent = P1,000)

EAR expenses defined

EAR expenses under Revenue Regulations 10-2002 include representation expenses as well as rentals or depreciation costs for entertainment facilities.

This is the first time "representation expenses" has been defined.

The term now refers to expenses incurred by a taxpayer in connection with his business or profession in entertaining or meeting with a guest at a dining place, place of amusement, country club, theater, concert, play, sporting event and similar events or places.

A "guest" refers to a person or entity with which the taxpayer has direct business relations such as a client or customer or a prospective client or customer.

Fixed representation allowances that are subject to withholding tax on wages are not included as representation expenses. They are part of the compensation paid by the taxpayer for personal services rendered. The taxpayer can deduct them from gross income as reasonable allowance for salaries, wages and other forms of compensation without limitation apart from reasonableness as to amount.

Club memberships of employees or officers of a taxpayer shall be presumed to be fringe benefits subject to fringe benefits tax unless the taxpayer proves that they are actually representation expenses.

In such case, he must maintain receipts and records that indicate the amount, date, place, purpose and professional or business relationship of the expense as well as the name of the person and company entertained with contact details.

Rents or depreciation cost for entertainment facilities such as yachts, vacation homes or condominiums may also be deducted from gross income provided these are primarily used for the entertainment of guests or employees.

These facilities must be owned or form part of the taxpayer's trade, business or profession or rented by the taxpayer.

Exclusions

Under Revenue Regulations No. 10-2002, the following expenses are specifically not considered as EAR expenses:

a. Expenses which are treated as compensation or fringe benefits for services rendered under an employer-employee relationship;

b. Expenses for charitable or fund raising events;

c. Expenses for bona fide business meeting of stockholders, partners or directors;

d. Expenses for attending or sponsoring an employee to a business league or professional organization meeting;

e. Expenses for events organized for promotion, marketing and advertising including concerts, conferences, seminars, workshops, conventions and other similar events;

f. Other expenses of a similar nature.

These expenses may, however, qualify as deductions under any of the other deductible items under Section 34 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (NIRC).

Requisites for deductibility

For an EAR expense to be allowed as deduction from the gross income, the following must be complied with:

a. It must be paid or incurred during the taxable year;

b. It must be: (i) directly connected to the development, management and operation of the trade, business or profession of the taxpayer; or (ii) directly related to or in furtherance of the conduct of his or its trade or business or exercise of a profession;

c. It must not be contrary to law, morals, good customs, public policy or public order;

d. It must not have been paid, directly or indirectly, to an official or employee or the national government, or any local government unit, or of any government-owned or controlled corporation (GOCC), or of a foreign government, or to a private individual or corporation, or general professional partnership (GPP), or a similar entity, if it constitutes a bribe, kickback or other similar payment;

e. It must be duly substantiated by adequate proof. The official receipts, or invoices, or bills or statements of accounts should be in the name of the taxpayer claiming the deduction; and

f. The appropriate amount of withholding tax, if applicable, should have been withheld and paid to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The expense claimed as deduction shall be subject to verification and audit in order to determine its deductibility and to determine whether the expense is properly substantiated by adequate proof.

If the taxpayer is found to have diverted the amount of EAR expenses to any other expense to avoid being subjected to the ceiling on EAR expenses, the amount shifted shall be disallowed in its entirety.

The erring taxpayer may also be subjected to appropriate penalties under the NIRC such as civil penalties under Section 248 for willfully making a false or fraudulent return.

He could even be subject to penal liability under Sections 255 and 257 for attempting to evade or defeat tax, failing to supply correct and accurate information in making a return, and making false entries in financial statements.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2002

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*Regency Twin Tower, #1129 Concepcion St, Ermita, Manila FA:112.32sm P20T/mo

PROVINCIAL

*Comc'l Bldg 1-storey Unit 105 Bacoor Business Center, Aguinaldo Hi-way, Habay, Bacoor, Cavite FA:65.65sm P10T/mo.

*Comc'l L&B 1-storey w/ mezz. Nat'l Hi-way, San Fernando, La Union LA:290sm; FA:200sm P60T/mo.

*Comc'l L&B 1-storey w/ mezz. Regidor cor. Bonifacio Sts, Sta. Cruz, Laguna LA:238sm; FA:224sm P58T/mo.

*Comc'l L&B 1-storey Lopez Ave, Los Baños, Laguna LA:241sm; FA:141sm P38T/mo.

*Comc'l L&B, 2-storey along Commission Cml St, Jaro, Iloilo City LA:532sm; FA:285sm P40T/mo

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

METRO MANILA

Makati

*Comc'l unit w/ p.slots Metropole Bldg, Buendia-Tordecillas Sts, Salcedo Vil, FA=192sm P44.17M

*Office unit Metropolitan Terraces Bldg, Kamagong St, FA=130sm P5.98M

*Office unit 21F Peak Condo Bldg, Alfaro St, Salcedo Vill, FA=314sm P20.42M

Manila

*3-adj VL Pedro Gil cor. Penafrancia St, Paco TLA=263sm P9.21M.

Paranaque

*Vacant Lot along President Ave near Sucat Road, Teoville Village, Sn Dionisio LA=350sm at P5.6M

17-VL along Sucat Road TLA=7.5637hec at P1.0B

NORTH LUZON

Bulacan

*Comc'l VL Nat'l Hiway, San Roque, Baliuag LA=400sm P600T

*L&B w/ 2-storey bdlg along JP Rizal St, Tarcan, Baliuag FA=410sm; LA=641sm P3.73M

Nueva Ecija

*L&B comc'l stall & res. Maharlika Hi-way, Talavera FA=256sm; LA=1679sm P9M

VISAYAS

Bohol

*Comc'l lot w/ motor shed, Lamdagan St, Cogon, Tagbilaran City LA=1059sm P4.8M

Cebu Province

*Comc'l lots w/ shed Cebu South Hiway & Padilla St, Mambaling, Cebu City; TLA=1,742sm P20.9M

Negros Occidental

*L&B w/ 2-storey bdlg, S.Carmona St, San Carlos City FA=507sm LA=76sm P3.5M

*2-adj VL Alijis Road, Bacolod City (beside Asean Alcohol) P2.53M

MINDANAO

Agusan

*Vacant Lot at Ochoa cor. Lejaena Sts, Butuan City LA=333sm P1.6M

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES

METRO MANILA

Las Pinas

*3-lot w/ wrhouses Alabang-Zapote Road (near SM SouthMall) TLA=7,056sm P200.6M

VISAYAS

Negros Occidental

*Ind'l Lot w/ wrhouses Nat'l Hi-way, San Carlos City LA=14313sm P18M

Ind'l Lot w/ wrhouses San Juan St, Banago, Bacolod City (near Shell Depot) LA=1529sm P4.68M

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

METRO MANILA

Caloocan

*9-adj V L Deparo Rd, Novaliches TLA=4801sm P19.2M

H&L w/ 1-storey hse L21/B5 Tangule St, Hillcrest Vill, Camarin FA=90sm; LA=120sm P818T

Las Pinas

*VL L12/B13 Camia St, Gatchalian Vill, Manuyo Dos LA=192sm P768T

*VL L4/B3 Martinville Vill, Manuyo Dos LA=460sm P2.76M

*VL L11/B15 Martinville Vill, Manuyo Dos LA=486sm P2.43M

*VL L3/B14 Martinville Vill, Manuyo Dos LA=459sm P2.07M

*VL L19/B20 Martinville Vill, Manuyo Dos LA=449sm P1.58M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse L14/B5 Monarch St, C.Manposa Vill, Talon FA=200sm; LA=305sm P3.5M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse #22 Mojica St, Remarville Subd, Pamplona FA=218sm; LA=185sm P2.53M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse #235 El Grande Ave, BF Homes Intl Vill, LA=525sm P6.12M

Makati

*H&L w/ 1-storey res'l hse #5 Narra St, Forbes Park Vill FA=700sm; LA=2437sm at P147.58M

*Studio type unit #331 Cityland 5, South Super Hiway FA=46.92sm P1.173M

Mandaluyong

*H&L 3-storey Thse Remville Cityhomes, RO, Santos St FA=190sm; LA=60sm P5.7M

Manila

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse R.Fernandez II, Tondo Dist. LA=150sm P3.39M

*Res'l condo unit #1403 w/ 4-BR at Gotesco Regency Tower-B, NA Lopez St, Ermita, FA=196.58sm P7.22M

*Res'l condo unit #703 w/ 2-BR Gotesco Regency Tower-B, NA Lopez St, Ermita, FA=126.86sm P4.66M

*Res'l condo unit #605 w/ 4-BR Gotesco Regency Tower-C, NA Lopez St, Ermita, FA=112.53sm P4.133M

*Res'l condo unit #2002 w/ 4-BR Gotesco Regency Tower-C, NA Lopez St, Ermita, FA=194.8sm P7.155M

*Res'l condo unit #C w/ 3-BR at Prudence Mansion, Fernandez cor. Kipuja Sts, Sta. Cruz, FA=115.58sm P3.698M

NORTH LUZON

Bataan

*9-adj. VLs Batangas II, Mariveles TLA=9.992hec. P44.15M

H&L in 4-adj VLs w/ bodega Sta.Monica Homes, Wiswis, Mariveles FA=128sm; LA=1104sm P3.19M

BIG DISCOUNT on Cash Sales

Bulacan

*VL Rd Lot 1 Bagong Bayan, Sn Jose delMonte LA=278sm P445T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse Calle Marquez, Pob, Plandel FA=196sm; LA=439sm P1.52T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse #93 Piel, Sto.Nino, Baliuag FA=180sm; LA=240sm P867M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse L35/B24 Palmera Homes 2A, Sto.Cristo, San Jose del Monte FA=36sm; LA=116sm P495T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse L1/B11 La Poblacion Subd, Muson, San Jose del Monte FA=25sm; LA=143sm P400T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse L6/B31 Alley 16, Northridge Subd, Sto.Cristo, San Jose del Monte FA=34sm; LA=44sm P300T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse L4 Alley 10, Carisa Homes 3-C, Sto.Cristo, San Jose del Monte FA=24sm;LA=60sm P270T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse R9/B21 Sampaguita cor Calachuchi Sts, Carisa Homes 3-B, Sto.Cristo, San Jose del Monte FA=40sm; LA=61sm P286T

Benguet

*VL Bo. Irisan, Tuba LA=4428sm P650T

*VL Bo. Irisan, Tuba LA=2166sm at P1.328M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse La Chesca Cmpd, Naguillan Rd, Irisan, Baguio City FA=222sm; TLA=1112sm P3.97M

as LOW AS 10% DOWN

*H&L w/ & 2-storey hse #90 Crystal Graden, C. Cave, Baguio City FA=200sm; LA=300sm P1.62M

Ilocos

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse Bgy Rd, Mangato-A, Laoag City FA=150sm; FA=1476sm P1.37M

Isabela

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse L2/B26 San Fabian, Echague FA=168sm; LA=402sm P472T

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse & bodega at Patul, Plaridel Hts, Santiago City LA=504sm P1.69M

SOUTH LUZON

Albay

*VL Bgy Sagpon & Puro, Legaspi City LA=1020sm P816T

*VL Bgy Sagpon & Puro, Legaspi City LA=168sm P252T

*VL Bgy Sagpon & Puro, Legaspi City LA=2303sm P231T

Cavite

*VL L27/B1 Rodeo Countryside Estate, Alfonso LA=1000sm P2.0M

*VL L17/B12 Rodeo Countryside Estate, Alfonso LA=1000sm P1.8M

*VL L8/B7 Rodeo Countryside Estate, Alfonso LA=1000sm P1.8M

*VL L10/B7 Rodeo Countryside Estate, Alfonso LA=925sm P1.67M

*VL L11/B7 Rodeo Countryside Estate, Alfonso LA=953sm P1.72M

*VL L13/B7 Rodeo Countryside Estate, Alfonso LA=1000sm P1.8M

*VL L2/B2 Pollyville Subd, Maitim II east, Tagaytay City, LA=400sm P1.0M

*VL L21/B49 Johnson St, Royale Tagaytay Estate Phs-1, Alfonso LA=301sm P1.2M

VL L19/B31 Johnson St, Royale Tagaytay Estate Phs-1, Alfonso LA=321sm P1.29M

*VL L26/B53 Eagle Ridge Subd, Gen Trias LA=863sm P2.59M

H&L w/ 2-storey house at Bucana, Naic FA=322sm; LA=1.36hec P8.0M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse L18/B12 Atis St near Mangosteen, Camella Homes, Springville City, Molino, Bacoor FA=99sm; LA=148sm P910T

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse at L10/B5 Alley 3, San Marino Subd, Salawag, Dasmariñas FA=20sm; LA=35sm P155T

*H&L L27/B14 Naples St, San Marino Subd, Salawag, Dasmariñas FA=20sm; LA=35sm P155T

*H&L w/ 2-storey thse unit #104 Leighton Garden Thouse, Cityland Ave, Silang Junction, Tagaytay City LA=161.8sm P5.5M

Camarines

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse Villa Concepcion, Naga City FA=170sm; LA=604sm P3.2M

Masbate

*VL Poblacion, Aroroy City LA=235sm P282T

VISAYAS

Antique

*2-adj. VLs, Bgy. Funda, San Jose. TLA=2040sm P663T

*VL Bgy. Malandog, Bgy. Hamtic, Antique LA=3,809sm P572T

Bohol

*VLSubd Road, Dña Rosario Subd, Booy, Tagbilaran City. LA=204sm P245T

*2-adj VLs, Dao, Tagbilaran City (near DPWH) TLA=6,781sm P3.75M

*2-adj VLs Brgy Road, Blk24 Cogon, Tagbilaran City (near CocaCola) TLA=6,781sm P8.5M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse & s.pool Blk9 Mansasa, Tagbilaran City FA=200sm P1.8M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse Blk#25 M.Parras St., 3rd Dist, Tagbilaran City FA=90sm; LA=400sm P1.41M

CAPIZ

*H&L w/ 2-adj lots & 2-storey hse Bgy. Tiza, Roxas City (near St.Anthony Hospital) FA=210sm; LA=844sm P3.65M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse Lopez Jaena St, Bgy. Ilaud, Roxas City (near Cinemars) FA=121sm; LA=290sm P1.69M

Cebu Province

*VL Calachuche cor St.Jude Drive, St.Jude Acres, Pardo, Cebu City; LA=257sm P950T

*2-adj VLs, Villa Bulceta, Pardo, Cebu City; TLA=969sm P1.45M

*VL Bgy Road, w/in Ramona Vill, San Isidro, Talisay City; LA=2,254 P2.26M

H&L w/ 1-storey hse & bodega #13 Amihan St. GentleBreeze Subd, Banilad, Cebu City FA=310sm; TLA=600sm P5.55M

Guimaras Island

*2-adj VLs Rizal St cor Provl Rd, Pob. Jordan; TLA=397sm P520T

*H&L w/ 2-units res'l hse & bodega Rizal St, Pob, Jordan (near pier); TFA=277sm; TLA=22sm P1.16M

*H&L w/ 1-storey res'l hse Bgy. Rd, Jordan (near small plaza); FA=56sm; LA=3,816sm P1.84M

Iloilo Province

*VL Aluceman St, Grand Plain Ph2, Jaro, Iloilo City; LA=225sm P660T

*VL 5/B6 Grand Plain Ph2, Jaro, Iloilo City; LA=280sm P420T

*2-adj VLs Certeza St, St.Joseph Vill, Jaro, Iloilo City (near rotonda); TLA=588sm P765T

*VL Bgy.Taboc Suba, Barotak Nuevo; LA=926sm P654T

*VL Capaque Subd, PHHC-A, Mandurriao, Iloilo City; LA=397sm P437T

*VLBgy.Compania, Molo, Iloilo City (beside EJD Fish Broker); LA=477sm P717T

*H&L w/ 2-storey res'l hse L9/B2 Alta Tierra Ph5, Jaro, Iloilo City (near Nat'l Rd) FA=140sm; LA=216sm P1.8M

Western Samar

*19-VLs Miraflor Vill, Dagum, Calbayog City TLA=5,175sm P2.6M

*118-VLs at Dagum Hills-1, Dagum, Calbayog City TLA=2.3hec P3.55M

*VL Rd13 cor Rd16, Miraflor Village, Dagum, Calbayog CityLA=600sm P600T

*VL Nat'l Hiway, Bagacay, Calbayog City LA=2262sm P2.26M

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse JPR Subd, Obrero, Calbayog City FA=297sm P4.3M

MINDANAO

Agusan

*VL Southwest cor. T.Calo Rdtn, Butuan City LA=217sm P4.4M.

*H&L w/ s.level hse Estacio Vill, Butuan City FA= 450sm; LA=808sm P3.3M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse at Tagla-tawan, Bayugan, Butuan City FA=400sm; LA=1457sm P3.0M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse at T.Calo St, Butuan City FA=120sm; LA=515sm P1.33M

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Davao

*VL San Miguel Village, Tagum City LA=444sm P267T

*VL L6/B15 Margarita Village, Tagum City LA=360sm P252T

*VL L19/B5 Sison Subd, Tagum City, LA=354sm P891T

*VL Seminary Dr., Tagum City LA=836sm P586T

*VL L9 Sobrecarey St, Magugpo, Tagum City LA=750sm P38T

*VL L14/B2 Apokon, Tagum City LA=357sm P144T

*VL L11/B2 Apokon, Tagum City LA=306sm P120T

*VL L15/B2 Apokon, Tagum City LA=335sm P136T

*H&L w/ 2-storey hse Purok 10 Pob, Monkayo, Compostela Valley FA=120sm; LA=800sm P432T

Misamis Oriental

*VL Makasandig, Cag. De Oro City LA=945sm P633T

*VL Makasandig, Cag. De Oro City LA=435sm P500T

South Cotabato

*VL L1/B8 Labangal St, Calumpang, Gen. Santos City LA=2500sm P2.0M

*VL L11/B8 Labangal St, Calumpang, Gen. Santos City LA=450sm P238T

*VL L3/B8 Labangal St, Calumpang, Gen. Santos City LA=400sm P238T

*VL Bugarin Subd, Lagao, Gen. Santos City LA=1000sm P250T

*VL Toyoto Subd, Sinawa, Apopong, Gen. Santos City LA=8000sm P2.4M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse Queenies Love Village, Gen. Santos City FA=275sm; LA=474sm P3.46M

Zamboanga Del Sur

*VL Muricay, Pagadian City LA=653sm P275T

Polomolok

*VL Cannery Housing Subd, Polomolok LA=600sm P352T

*VL Kaunlaran Subd, Magsaysay, Ma.Rosa Village, Polomolok LA=7704sm P3.96M

*VL Ranada Subd, Polomolok LA=299sm P1.24M

*VL Ranada Subd, Polomolok LA=300sm P1.25M

*VL Miana Subd, Polomolok LA=525sm P472T

*VL Poblacion, Polomolok LA=337sm P332T

*VL GSA Site, Polomolok LA=436sm P153T

TANDAG

*VL Poblacion, Tandag LA=4519sm P5.43M

*VL Poblacion, Tandag LA=766sm P919T

*VLPoblacion, Tandag LA=4520sm P5.08M

*VL Poblacion, Tandag LA=4061sm P1.63M

*H&L w/ 1-storey hse Navales St, Poblacion, Tandag FA=140sm; LA=486sm P1.7M

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of MICA BY THE SEA with office address at ZON II Building, 19 Lot 45 Langka Street, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as Existing and Expanding Export Producer of Processed Marine Products at a capacity of 474 metric tons per year with plant site at the same office address stated above has been officially accepted on July 30, 2002 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 30th day of July 2002.

(Sgd.) DOMINGO I. BAGAPORO
Officer-In-Charge
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – Aug. 23, 2002)

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING TOURIST AND VISITING RELATIVE VISAS

The new system will be introduced for the convenience of the applicants. Beginning 02 September 2002, individuals applying for TOURIST and VISITING RELATIVE VISAS may do so directly at the designated windows.

This change is only relevant to those individuals applying in Manila.

Accordingly, the DROP BOX SYSTEM will be TERMINATED on **30 August 2002**.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALVARO J. BULACTIAL, SR. was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc No. 445 Page No. 91 Book No. XXII Series of 2002 of notary public Gaudencio S. Mercado of Quezon City
(PDI-Aug. 9. 16 &23, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of PEDRO TABIOS who has been missing since March 1994 was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc# 482, Page# 96, Book# VIII series of 2002 of notary public LEOPOLDO ULANDAY of Quezon City
(PDI-Aug.16, 23 & 30, 2002)

Take Notice of settlement of estate of Maria Gonzales-Inguito is being settled pursuant to deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate with absolute sale Doc 52, Page 12, Book 33 Series 1999 Notary Public Nestor L. Mesina Pasig City.
(PDI-Aug. 16, 23 & 30, 2002)

Take Notice of settlement of estate of Margarita Gonzales-Tonque pursuant to deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate with absolute sale Doc. 400, Page 81, Book 30 series of 1999, notary public Lani Tabilisma Pasig City.
(PDI-Aug. 16, 23 & 30, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given of the Loss of Alien Cert of reg # E-43179 issued to Christine Surjantini Aranya Indonesian by the Bureau of Immigration on January 15, 1998 (PDI-Aug 23,30&Sept6,2002)

Notice is hereby given that the Alabang Country Club "A" Share w/ Stock Certificate No. A-2130 issued in the name of Bernard Rojas & which share is mortgaged w/Investors Financial Services Corp. (formerly CIPI Leasing) was lost. If no contest received, new Certificate will be issued.
PDI-Aug. 23, 30, Sept. 6 2002

Notice is hereby given that Equitable Bank Stock Cert #59487 in the name of ENRIQUE JUAN / ROSARIO MEI MEI JUAN has been lost (PDI-Aug. 9,16 & 23, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that Stock Cert. No. 563611 -121 shares for MERALCO A shares under the name of Myrna G. Jardinero were lost. If found please call 7150165 loc 151 (PDI-Aug 9, 16 & 23, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant **Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BENECO)** on **January 15, 2002** of an application for approval of its unbundled rates pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9136 docketed as ERC Case No. 2002-16. Subsequently, it filed an amended application on **June 3, 2002** docketed as ERC Case No. 2002-214. The applicant proposed an overall average tariff adjustment of P1.1980/kwh as a result of the restructuring and/or reformatting of its existing rate structure in accordance with the prescribed Uniform Rate Filing Requirements.

The Commission has set the application for bearing on **September 12, 2002** at nine o'clock (9:00 a.m.) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **FE B. BARIN**, Chairman, and the Honorables **MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO, OLIVER B. BUTALID, CARLOS R. ALINDADA** and **LETICIA V. IBAY**, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 18th day of July 2002 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.**
Executive Director III

(PDI - Aug 16 & 23, 2002)

INQUIRER TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Wine and women

Q. Why do alcoholic drinks have a stronger and faster effect on women than men?

A. The main reason is that women generally weigh less than men and have proportionately less water in their bodies, so alcohol is less diluted in the blood and thus retains a more potent effect on the brain and central nervous system. There is also evidence that women's stomachs are not as well supplied with enzymes that break down alcohol.

For the Record. For both men and women, the concentration of alcohol in the bloodstream depends on these factors: *body weight*—the heavier you are, the higher your alcohol tolerance; *percentage of body fat*—the higher your ratio of fat to lean tissue, the slower the alcohol will be broken down and absorbed into your bloodstream; *how much you have eaten*—the fuller your stomach, the longer it will take for alcohol to enter the circulation; *the nature and time of your last meal*—fatty or oily foods slows down the absorption of alcohol and the rate at which the stomach empties, meaning that if you have a rich meal, the effects of alcohol will take longer to become apparent; *your personal reaction to alcohol*—as mentioned earlier, women (and young people) have a lower tolerance to alcohol because they have fewer enzymes to break it down.

Past Forward. This day in 1938: The University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) was founded by the University of the Philippines, University of Santo Tomas, Far Eastern University, and National University.

WORD WATCH

Varsity (var'sih tee): a contraction and alteration of university.

PDI – August 23, 2002

URGENTLY NEEDS A WRITER

- Knows how to compose business and marketing letters
- Willing to work full time
- Preferably with experience working in events organizing firm
- M/F, not more than 35 years old

Contact Tels. 7264128-30. Look for Joela

HEADQUARTERS
LIGHT ARMOR BRIGADE, PHILIPPINE ARMY
Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac

BAC — 21 August 2002

LABDE, PA INVITATION TO BID NR 01-2002

The Light Armor Brigade, Philippine Army is inviting all reputable suppliers to Pre-qualify and Bid for the Supply and Delivery of Radio Accessories of Armoured Vehicles.

The pre-bidding is scheduled on **02 September 2002** at 2:00 PM while the bidding will be on **11 September 2002** at 2:00 PM at LABde, PA Conference Room, Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac.

The LABde, PA neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

THE LABDE, PA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY DEFECT CONTAINED HEREIN AND ACCEPT THE LOWEST COMPLYING AND REASONABLE BID AND ONE THAT IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE PHILIPPINE ARMY.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO P. CUTIYOG
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Aug. 23, 24 & 25, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COOPERATION
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. Nos. 743-8301 local 1310 / 1311 • Fax (632) 711-9582

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

The Integrated Community Health Services Project (ICHSP), a Foreign Assisted Project of the Department of Health:

Is in need of:

One (1) Project Evaluation Officer IV
(For assignment in the Province of Apayao, preferably fluent in Ilocano dialect)
One (1) Project Development Officer V
One (1) Project Development Officer II
Three (3) Accounting Clerk III
Four (4) Project Officer
One (1) Project Evaluation Officer
One (1) Project Administration Assistant
One (1) Messenger

Applicants must be:

1. With Masteral/Bachelor's Degree relevant to the position
2. With relevant working experience
3. With working knowledge on Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Internet

Please send your application letter and curriculum vitaé with 2x2 picture on or before August 30, 2002 to:

ENGR. BONIFACIO B. MAGTIBAY
Project Manager
Integrated Community Health Services Project
4th Floor, Philippine Tuberculosis Society Building
Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila

Or send through Electronic Mail: ichsp@doh.gov.ph

(Sgd.) REMEDIOS V.S. PAULINO
Director IV, BIHC

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD2002-21

Opening Date : September 10, 2002 - 9:00 AM
E-Bidding Date : September 17, 2002 - 9:00 AM

2002-21-01 — RINGS, Gold (14/18 K) with NPC Logo, with and without stones

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **August 23, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 per schedule which is non-refundable and presentation of TIN/supplier's number (DCE).

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents, mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries, please call no. 921-2574. Last day of issuance of bidding documents, September 4, 2002.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI – Aug. 23 & 26, 2002)

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THAILAND CAMPUS

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Learn about Gems and Jewelry

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Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig
(National Irrigation Administration)
Rehiyon Building 5, Lungsod ng Naga
City Address: Panganiban Drive, Naga City
Tel Nos. 4732882; 4732090; 4738967; 8111139,4732882(TeleFAX)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the National Irrigation of Administration (NIA) Regional Office No. 5, Panganiban Drive, Naga City invites contractors with experience of similar contracts and Medium "A" classification to apply for eligibility and submit bid for the Construction of Diversion Works of Pinangapugan CIP, Uson, Masbate with approved POW of P7,979,401.36 as follows:

Particulars	Unit	Quantity
I. Diversion Works		
1. 211 kg/sq.cm. Reinf. Concrete	cu.m.	375
2. Rubble Masonry	cu.m	1,463.50
3. Cofferdam and Dewatering	cu.m.	570
4. 76 cm. Dia RCP	lin.m.	26
5. Structure Excavation (Mech)	cu.m.	1,025
6. Structure Excavation (Manual)	cu.m.	1,410
7. Structure Backfill (Manual)	cu.m.	386
8. Filter Drain Bed	cu.m.	133
9. Mob. & Demob.	proj.	1
10. Project Bunkhouse	unit	1

The proposed work to be undertaken shall include furnishing labor, materials and equipments necessary to complete the project in 240 calendar days.

Submission of documents to apply for eligibility shall be on *August 26-30, 2002* and eligibility forms are also available on same time and date at the office of BAC Chairman during office hours.

Bid and Tender Documents shall be available to eligible contractors on *September 9-13, 2002* at the office of BAC Chairman upon payment of non-refundable amount of P5,000.00

Pre-bidding conference is scheduled on *September 18, 2002*, at the NIA Regional Office, Naga City.

The Public bidding shall be conducted on *October 4, 2002* at *9:00 am* at the Conference Room, NIA Regional Office, Naga City

The National Irrigation Administration reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

CEZAR F. GARCIA
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Aug. 23 & 29, 2002)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.) CASKETS
... because they deserve only the best.
*For more information, please call your funeral director.

Dr. Corazon Baquiran y Sebastian

Peacefully joined the Lord on 17 August 2002 at the age of 88.

His bereaved wife, **Linda Cachola** and loving children:

Ruderico and Amy Pasion
Lestrino and Aurora Bairan
Elmer and Myrna Lucero
Lucille and Ramon-Ermita
Delia
Dennis and Fleur-de-liz Buenconsejo
Enrico and Paulina Mendoza
Nina and Hassan Moussavi
Vita and Antonio Avena
Evina and Jose Mari Torres
Laennec and Ma. Consolacion Nazario
Lutgarda and Anthony Peralta
Leah and Jose Mari Alon

grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, 27 Jose Basa Street, Laoag City.

Interment will be on Monday, 26 August 2002 at the Maharlika Memorial Gardens after the 2:30 PM Mass at the St. Williams Cathedral, Laoag City.

"In memory of BOYET who loved life and yet touched many lives because of his simplicity and humbleness. You will be greatly missed."

DR. ANTONIO FAUSTO SANTOS JR.

Died peacefully in the grace of our Lord on August 21, 2002 at the age of 42.

His loving wife **Vilma**; children **Dregzil John, Desmond Anthony, Desiree Janille**; parents **Dr. Antonio Sr. & Rufina**; parents-in-law **Judge Antonio Tiong & Agustina**; brother and sisters **Teresa Ana & Marco Gosiengfiao, Ma. Rita & Angel Angeles, Alberto Jose, Ma. Cecilia & James Acero, Ma. Carmela & Paul Nabong**; nephews and nieces **Marquis, Cheska, Yanna, Raya, Rian, Marian, Gie-An, Maii & Tristan**; other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Enriquez Funeral Parlor on F. Tañedo Street, Tarlac City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 24, 2002 at the Eternal Memorial Park after the 9:00 AM Mass at the Tarlac Cathedral.

Our Dearly Beloved

LUDOVICO T. OBSEQUIO, SR.

of Jolo, Sulu

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 21, 2002 at the age of 83.

His loving wife **Otilia**; children **Ludovico, Jr.; Georgina & Eric**; brothers and sisters **Orlando & Raquel (†), Eva, Patria & Samson, Sr., Benjamin, Jaime & Milagros, Manuel & Faricia**; sister-in-law **Josefina Suarez**; nieces and nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Merced Memorial Homes, Alvarez Street, Zamboanga City.

Interment will be announced later at Forest Lake Memorial Park, Tumaga, Zamboanga City.

In Loving Memory of

Brig. Gen. Hans M. Menzi

Philanthropist. Industrialist.
Businessman. Sportsman.
Publisher. Civic Leader.
Soldier. Aviator.
Filipino.

Founder
Menzi Trust Fund, Inc.
on his 92nd Birthday, August 23, 2002.

Holy Masses will be offered at 10:30 a.m. today at the Menzi Head Office, 20th Floor, Security Bank Centre, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City and in the following churches:

Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion ..... 7:30 a.m.
Intramuros, Manila
Malate Catholic Church ..... 7:00 a.m.
Malate, Manila
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene ..... 8:00 a.m.
Quiapo, Manila
San Agustin Church ..... 7:00 a.m.
Intramuros, Manila
Santuario de San Antonio ..... 7:30 a.m.
Forbes Park, Makati City
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace ..... 6:30 a.m.
EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City
St. John Bosco Parish ..... 7:30 a.m.
Arnaiz Street, Makati City
St. Joseph Parish Bamboo Organ Church ..... 6:00 a.m.
Las Piñas City
St. Vincent de Paul Parish ..... 7:15 a.m.
Ermita, Manila
Sta. Cruz Parish ..... 8:00 a.m.
Sta. Cruz, Manila

The Menzi Family requests all pious readers to remember him in their prayers.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me, and where I am, My servant also will be." John 12:16

AMADOR "BUJI" VICENCIO JAVIER

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 19, 2002 at the age of 59.

His body lies in state at San Felipe Neri Parish Auxilliary Chapels-Pagkabuhay, Boni Avenue corner Aglipay Street, Mandaluyong City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, August 24, 2002 at the La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at San Felipe Neri Parish Auxilliary Chapels.

FRANKLIN T. BAKING

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 20, 2002 at the age of 58, at Simi Valley, California, USA.

His loving wife **Jane**; children **Catherine, Franklin, Jr.** and **Francis** request the pious reader to please remember him in your prayers.

For those who wish to condole with the family may send their sympathies to:

Ms. Melania C. Tuazon
Consunji Street, San Fernando City, Pampanga
Tel. No. (045) 961-3778

Mr. Angel T. Baking Jr.
Tel. Nos. 631-2118 (Office), 645-5113 (Home)

A Mass in his memory will be celebrated at the above provincial address on Saturday, 24 August 2002 at 10:00 AM.

HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Helping in the Grief of Many People
www.holygardens.com
INTERMENT NOTICE

NAME	DATE	TIME	PLACE	PLACE OF WAKE
MAXIMO FLORENTINO JR.	AUGUST 24	2:00 PM	HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK ANGONO, RIZAL	74 VILLALUZ ST., ANGONO, RIZAL

ANNOUNCEMENT:
1. We will be on web by September 1, 2002
2. Visit our Website and can do any of the following:
   a. virtual tour of all the site
   b. obituary
   c. biography of the interred for the last 60-90 days
   d. mass offering and condolences
3. Later
   a. sales and documents through the web
   b. lot inquiry

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 8
Tacloban City

INVITATION TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) invites interested parties to participate in the sealed bidding for the lease of the Ground Floor of the People's Center and Library as venue for "Christmas Bazaar and Trade Exhibit" from **November 15, 2002** to **January 15, 2003**, located at Real Street, Tacloban City.

The bidding guidelines will be available from PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, Third Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City and at the PCGG Regional Office, Nipa Hut, Jones Street, Tacloban City, starting **August 22, 2002**. For inquiries, please contact Darwin Altea, Tel. No. 726-0034 and Renor O. Dauag, Tel. No. (053) 321-3413.

Bids will be received, opened and tabulated after their submission at 10:00 AM on **September 3, 2002** in the presence of the bidders at the PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, Third Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) **RENOR O. DAUAG**
Officer-In-Charge
PCGG, Region 8

(PDI – Aug. 22, 23 & 24, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
SOUTHERN LEYTE STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Main Campus, 6606 Sogod, Southern Leyte
Tel. No.: (053) 3822003/3823294/3822439/Telefax No.: (053) 3823294
website: http://www.slsicstonline.edu.ph e-add: slscst@slscstonline.edu.ph

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

a. The Southern Leyte State College of Science and Technology, Sogod, Southern Leyte is inviting registered contractors (Category "C"-Building) to pre-qualify and bid the proposed construction/continuation of SLSCST Two-Storey Administration Building Phase III.

b. Pre-C Forms, Bid documents as well as other information are available at the BAC Secretariat c/o BAC Chairman, SLSCST Sogod, Southern Leyte upon submission of the following: (1) Letter of intent; (2) PCAB License; (3) Certification of Completion and Acceptance of Contract Agreement of completed similar projects; and (4) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

c. Working plan shall be released to pre-qualified contractors upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,500.00 only from authorized representative with authorization from the owner/board.

d. Schedule of activities:

1. Pre-Qualification ..... September 16, 2002
2. Issuance of Bid Documents ..... September 23, 2002
3. Pre-bidding conference ..... September 30, 2002
4. Submission of pre-C and Bid Documents ..... October 14, 2002

e. SLSCST reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any defect herein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

For more information, please contact Dr. Valerio B. Cabalo, BAC Chairman or Mrs. Bernardita G. Lora, BAC Executive Officer and Secretary. Telephone number (053) 382-2003; 382-3294.

(SGD) **LEONARDO L. MANALO**
President

(PDI--Aug. 21, 23 & 25, 2002)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

NOTICE

Please be informed that the following Special Investor's Resident Visa (SIRV) stickers with the following serial numbers were lost:

Serial Nos. 002589, 002590, 002591, 002592, 002593, 002594
002595, 002596, 002597, 002598, 002599, 002600
002601, 002602, 002603, 002604, 002605, 002606
002607, 002608, 002609, 002610, 002611, 002612

Serial Nos. 002641, 002642, 002643, 002644, 002645, 002646
002647, 002648, 002649, 002650, 002651, 002652
002653, 002654, 002655, 002656, 002657, 002658
002659, 002660, 002661, 002662, 002663, 002664
002665, 002666, 002667, 002668, 002669, 002670
002671, 002672, 002673, 002674, 002675, 002676
002677, 002678, 002679, 002680

Serial Nos. 003101, 003102, 003103, 003104, 003105, 003106
003107, 003108, 003109, 003110, 003111, 003112
003113, 003114, 003115, 003116, 003117, 003118
003119, 003120, 003121, 003122, 003123, 003124
003125, 003126, 003127, 003128, 003129, 003130
003131, 003132, 003133, 003134, 003135, 003136
003137, 003138, 003139, 003140

In this regard the above-mentioned SIRV stickers are deemed invalid.

(Sgd.) **LUCITA P. REYES**
Executive Director
Technical Services Group

(PDI – Aug. 23, 2002)

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

'Strat Ur Stuff' to gain competitive advantage

"STRAT Ur Stuff" is a strategic Marketing Summit to be staged by the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) from Nov. 20 to 22. Today, more than ever, companies should review their strategic marketing tools to gain a competitive advantage. Your "stuff" like your company and your products, product lines, product mixes, and your services should be strategized properly, uniquely, and wittingly enough following the science and art of strategic marketing. Extrapolations in the past are long enough. Companies should focus on the market environment facing the firm. The enhancement of research and development could represent an adjustment in strategic capability.

Strategic marketing emphasizes not only projections but also an in-depth understanding of the market environment, particularly competitors and customers. The goal is not only to gain insight into current conditions but also to be able to anticipate changes that have strategic implications. It is in this very competitive scenario that we invite you to attend the Strategic Marketing Summit of Pana so that you can "Strat Ur Stuff."

Gain new insights on the following topics: the essence of the brand; how a CEO views strategic marketing; the ad agency as a strategist: developing research, product, retail, customer service, and IMC plans, e-marketing, financial planning, and new trends and practices in strategic marketing. Distinguished speakers will come from the various sectors of the marketing industry.

Strat Ur Stuff is inviting participants from manufacturing concerns, service business establishments, retail stores, advertising and related marketing communications agencies, media companies, research, suppliers and other strategic stakeholders. The summit likewise welcomes other key members of the corporate planning team like people from finance, production and operations, and professors and students from the academe.

As an incentive to all, Pana is announcing pre-launch rates at only P5,000 if you register and pay your dues from June 17 to June 28. The succeeding rates are: Early Bird Rate – July 1 to Sept. 30--P6,000; Regular Rate – Oct. 1 to Nov. 19--P7,000; On Site Rate – Nov. 20 to 22--P7,500. The Academe Rate is P3,000.

Strat Ur Stuff and be counted as an up-to-date and innovative strategist. Register now. For inquiries and reservations, call Pana and look for Susan Yu or Lyn Gameng at 890-2989 to 91 or 899-5671/91.

Orienting school youth on marketing

THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers (Pana) through its education and research committee led by director Raul S. Alvarez of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company and chair Tristan Leveriza of Colgate-Palmolive Philippines launched two new projects this year particularly for students of various colleges and universities all over the country.

First is the project called Tour of Schools wherein lectures and seminars will be conducted which pertains to the topic Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) which will cover advertising, public relations, sales promotions, events marketing and salesmanship. The lecture will be conducted in schools upon invitation of school authorities.

Second project is dubbed as Oplan Schools where symposia on the topic "All About Marketing" will be held. The topic will evolve on all the functions and aspects of marketing, which will include marketing research, product planning and development, production, storage and warehousing, distribution and other functions of marketing.

To avail yourself of the project, a formal letter must be sent to Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon, executive director of Pana at Unit 3-5 Sunshine Condominium, 9633 Kamagong Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City with telephone numbers 890-2989/90 or fax 899-5671/91.

IRAQ CELEBRATES NATIONAL DAY IN RP

The Embassy of Iraq celebrated its country's national day July 17. Shown at the celebration, from left, are Philippine Ambassador to Iraq Raul Goco, Abdul Karim Shwaikh, Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of Iraq, Ma. Veronica S. Carandang, membership chair and vice chair for international relations, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ARMM Governor Dr. Parouk Hussin, Madame Navrekha Sharma, Ambassador of India, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the PCCI, Consuelo Roceles, vice president, Ultra Pure Systems Inc, and Enrico Santos, president of Gleeco Enterprises.

CALTEX'S NEW MILLIONAIRES

New millionaires Erlinda Sinio (2nd from left) of Cavite and Ester Mantilla of Paranaque City show off their checks with Ickhoy de Leon, Caltex country brand manager (left) and Tito Bocanegra, Caltex South Luzon retail district manager. Meanwhile, a new millionaire from Basilan was also awarded. Winner Anding Bullon Sari (2nd from right) poses with two representatives from Caltex Escolastica Station and Bobby Testa (left), field manager, field manager for Zamboanga. The three are the new winners of the 'Scratcha Numba' promo from Caltex.

Product FILES

Coffee treats from Dunkin Donuts

JUMPSTART your day with Dunkin Donuts "Coffee on the Go Combos!" You can have a choice of one regular cup of Dunkin original coffee with two pieces of Donut de Fruta, or two regular cups of coffee, for only P25. Other combos are available at participating outlets.

JOLLIBEE SUPPORTS MAYORS' AWARDS

In its quest to empower the Filipino youth, Jollibee joins forces with Cartoon Network's girl power team of Blossom, Bubbles, and Buttercup in the search for outstanding young citizens of the metropolis for Asia's first Mayors' Awards of Excellence. The contest is sponsored by the good deeds of the Powerpuff Girls who, young as they are, help the Mayor of Townsville in protecting the city and teaching its citizens the value of working for the common good. Supported by the Metro Manila Mayor's League, the contest is open to kids, ages 10 to 16, living in the 17 municipalities of Metro Manila. The awards will be given to three boys and three girls who excel in leadership, the arts, and athletics. Deadline of submission to the mayors' offices is Aug. 30. Nomination forms are available in Metro Manila schools and from the mayors' municipal offices, Toytown branches and at select Jollibee outlets. Shown is Manila Mayor Lito Atienza speaking on behalf of the MML in support of the awards. Looking on are TV host Bam Aquino and Cartoon Network executive Ian Diamond.

Asiaco wins international award

ASIACO Enterprises International Inc. was recently chosen to be the recipient of the prestigious Quality Summit International Award for Excellence and Business Prestige, gold category by the Business Initiative Directions (BID), an international communications organization based in Madrid, Spain. The awards ceremony was held in New York this July.

As pioneer and leader in wire baskets manufacturing in the country, Asiaco was selected in recognition of its corporate achievement, quality and excellence in the areas of customer satisfaction, TQM, ISOO 9000, business results and financial outcome among other criteria.

"This recognition is another proof of the Filipinos' competitiveness internationally and this augurs well with our goal of penetrating the foreign market," Ed Z. Paredes, Asiaco's assistant general manager, expressed.

Asiaco's line of products include space saving kitchen cabinets, pullout wire baskets, room and kitchen organizers and accessories that are available in leading department and hardware stores. The firm offers free technical advice on kitchen and room closet designs from its well-trained staff through its customer hotline number 744 1556.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

Arles Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

GlobeQuest: Globe Telecom's state-of-the-art network solution

LEADING full service telecommunications provider Globe Telecom has integrated its data and Internet services to provide a one-stop, state-of-the-art network solution that will equip its customers with the necessary tools to take control of their business.

Dubbed as GlobeQuest, the new brand personifies the Globe network group as it embraces a promise of the company's relentless pursuit for new ideas that will benefit its subscribers.

"GlobeQuest expresses the intent of all our business groups – an intent to discover the best solutions with rigor and perseverance. It reflects in the technological solutions each group provides. Our objective is to place GlobeQuest in the environment to make a statement – we will change your world," said Gil B. Genio, Globe SVP and COO.

Genio noted that as technology rapidly changes, GlobeNet and GlobeData, the two brands under the Wireline Data Group of Globe, are often required to bundle their services to come up with an integrated winning solution for their respective customers.

As a result, he said, distinguishing the two has become difficult and so is communicating their services and benefits to the target market.

"The need to rationalize the brands and rework their communication programs becomes apparent, as we see the importance of leveraging on both brands' capabilities and have a more effective and coherent way of communicating it," he explained.

GlobeQuest will also integrate new Globe's new capabilities and offerings such as its IDC, C2C submarine cable system and Corporate Voice solutions such as conferencing and Voice VPNs.

GlobeQuest, Genio said, allows the company to ride the crest of sweeping technology that brings change, foresight, speed and control.

"The Globe wireline data proposition is to create relevant solutions for business customers based on ubiquitous, value-priced, high-speed data services over a nationwide broadband network. We want to be more efficient, more productive, more focused, more creative. We want to be the first to know, the first to arrive at the future, and the ones to change it," he said.

GlobeNet is a full-service ISP for business applications supporting the growing requirement of business for information technology, and network solutions. High-availability servers, routers and multiple high-speed international fiber optic and satellite plus diverse Network Operating Centers are used to guarantee businesses competitive advantage via the Internet.

GlobeData is a comprehensive suite of domestic and international data services for corporate networks utilizing leased lines, frame relay, ATM, IP, xDSL and VSAT technologies over a scalable and highly reliable broadband network delivering highly reliable networks, customized network solutions, faster service delivery, widest points of presence, 24x7 after-sales support, and single point-of-contact.

WNCAA-ADIDAS 33RD SEASON SEEN AT 9

The WNCAA-Adidas 33rd season successfully opened Aug. 3 at the PSC-Philsport Arena (formerly Ultra) and was attended by students, academe, and parents from 15 schools with 13 sports to compete and showcase for the entire season from August 2002 to March 2003. RPN 9 was chosen as the official network and will air seven special events and weekly WNCAA-Adidas highlights. Shown at the MOA signing between WNCAA and RPN 9 are (from left) Cencio de la Cruz, RPN 9 sales and marketing head, Leonor Linao, RPN 9 assistant GM for operations, Cerge Remonde, RPN 9 chair and CEO, Vivian Manila, WNCAA president, and witnessed by Evan Aldia, WNCAA business officer and Andre Ramon Rodriguez, managing director of Tactical Xperts, the official WNCAA marketing group.

'GLOCALIZING' BANK MARKETING

The Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP) holds its bank marketing convention with the theme 'Glocalizing Bank Marketing; Global Trends for the local Market' at the Hotel Intercon Manila Oct. 2 and 3. The BMAP convention formally opens the Bank Marketing 2002 Expo and brings together the industry experts in marketing communications, advertising, product and business development, public relations, and tackles timely subjects such as media management and developing sales culture. Shown, from left, are BMAP president Gerry Diaz, ABS-CBN director for business group Ces Drilon and Convention chair Allan Tumbaga. ANC 21 is the broadcast partner of the BMAP convention. BMAP members and non-members can inquire and register at the Convention secretariat at 755-8828 or 755-8805.

EXPERIENCE NOKIA HEADS TO CEBU

After a successful run in Metro Manila, mobile phone leader Nokia trooped over to the Visayas with Experience Nokia Cebu. Held at the SM Cebu July 18 to 22, the activity showcased the latest phone offerings from Nokia. The Nokia 3315, 3350, 3510, 5210, 6510, 8310, 8855, and 8910 were available for customers to experience and have a 'personal encounter' with. Nokia Care's service was also open for phone check-ups and repairs by a team of Nokia experts. Customers were also able to purchase Nokia phones and original Nokia accessories at discounts. Parikshit Bhasin, country general manager of Nokia Mobile Phones, gets a hold of the titanium-based Nokia 8910, as a product specialist looks on.

How to cut down on sodium

TO HELP you consume less sodium yet enjoy the natural flavor of foods you eat, follow these tips from the Nutrition and Dietitian Association of the Philippines (NDAP):

- Learn to enjoy the unsalted flavors of foods.
- Select fresh foods rather than processed foods.
- Read food labels and package information carefully, including the product's sodium contents.
- Cook with small amounts of added salt, or no salt at all.
- Limit the salty foods you eat such as potato chips and salted nuts; condiments such as soy sauce, cheese, pickled foods and cured meats.
- When dining out, request that foods be prepared without added salt.
- Add little or nor salt at the table. Instead, season food with herbs, fresh lemon juice and salt substitute.

Now available in the country is Nu-Salt, a healthy salt substitute which may be used in place of regular salt in cooking. Nu-Salt looks, pours and measures just like ordinary table salt. It is available in individual table shakers or individual packets. With Nu-Salt, one can still enjoy the full flavor of food while maintaining a good balance of sodium and potassium.

Nu-Salt is available in 3-ounce table shakers and in boxes of individual packets. It is made by the makers of Sweet 'N Low, America's number one granulated sugar substitute.

Nu-Salt is exclusively imported by SweetLink. Visit www.nusalt.com or e-mail wizgic@I-manila.com.ph. Nu-Salt is now available in Mercury Drugstores, SM Supermarkets, Landmark and Rustan's.

ASIAN VISIONS GROUP OPENS EYE CLINIC

A special team of highly professional eye doctors with a variety of sub-specialties formally launched the Asian Visions Group eye clinic at the modern Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. It is a one-stop convenience shop where patients can readily avail themselves of the latest hospital facilities in the country. The team to reckon with pose for posterity at the blessing of the ultra-modern clinic. Shown are (from left) Drs. Leonardo Mangubat, Edward Uy, Benjamin Abela Jr., Sherman Valero and Alfonso Bengzon. The group provides state-of-the-art eye care and professional services led by Abela as founder and president, and who also chairs the ophthalmology department at the Asian Hospital.

BITS & Clips

Jitse-Phil exam deadline extended

JITSE-Phil (Japanese Information Technology Standard Examination of the Philippines) exam, organized by the Jitse-Phil Foundation, extended the deadline for submission of application forms until Aug. 25 to accommodate and give more chances for IT students, government and private employees, and IT professionals from all industries to be part of the first regular Jitse-Phil Certification Exam in the country. The exam is scheduled Sept. 8 in four exam centers nationwide: Baguio, Manila, Cebu and Davao. Jitse-Phil is a certification program that aims to help Filipino IT professionals establish employment in Japanese companies worldwide. For application forms, call Jitse-Phil Foundation at 817-7306, 817-8668, 817-9844, fax 812-8027 or visit www.jitse.org.

Fun caravan in Pampanga, Pangasinan

ALL ROADS lead to the provinces of Pampanga and Pangasinan as Nestle Chocolate Milk Drink brings its blockbuster school and mall tour caravan from Aug. 12 to 24. Nestle Chocolate Milk Drink reveals its fresh new logo and name in more than 200 schools and leading malls across the country. Heading the fun group is Nestle Chocolate Milk Drink's lovable mascot Chuckie. Other highlights of the tour are the Chuckie Cheer Pep Squad and the Nestle Chocolate Mural Mania. There will also be exciting parlor games, dance numbers from Chuckie, and invited celebrities, and continuous sampling of Nestle Chocolate Milk Drink. The Nestle Chocolate Milk Drink school and mall tours go to Cebu from Sep. 4 to 14, and Davao on Sep. 19 to 28.

Evolution tours malls

EVOLUTION by Sabella steps out in a bold expression of attitude with a tour of seven malls—Robinsons (Ortigas, Ermita, Metro East Pasig and Fairview), Sta. Lucia East, Festival Supermall and Ali Mall. The activity is an interactive event that includes a fashion show, free makeover by Fashion 21 and the unveiling of Evolution's new collection. Aptly called "R-evolution", the event kicked off at Robinsons Galleria and featured some 40 models in a show directed by Ogee Atos. Evolution image model actress Sunshine Dizon will be featured during the shows scheduled on Aug. 23 at Robinsons Manila, Aug. 31 at Sta. Lucia East, Sep. 7 at Festival Supermall and Sep. 14 at Ali Mall. The shows are sponsored by Fashion 21, Block and White, Ystilo, Long Stem Flower Shop, Magic 89.9, DWRT, and DWTM, Nescafe Frothe, Converse, Picture City, Island Photo, Viva Mineral Water, and Vanity Magazine.

PHARMATON AWARDS PALM PILOT ONLINE

Vincent Chua and Levi Borlagdatan of Metro Manila and Roselle Garcia of Cebu are the winners of Palm Pilot M100 personal digital assistants from Boehringer Ingelheim, exclusive marketers of Pharmaton capsules in the country. They bagged the Palm Pilots in a special online promo organized by Pharmaton in cooperation with Yehey.com. Shown are, from left, Rodolfo Ikalina, Boehringer Ingelheim manager, consumer health care division, Myla Villanueva, Pharmaton product manager, winner Chua, Tintin Borillo, representative from Lowe Inc. and Rina Lacia of Yehey.com. Only Pharmaton is clinically proven to increase one's mental and physical vitality.

MUSEUM OF THE MIND GALA OPENING

Sen. Rene 'Companero' Cayetano, chair of the Senate Committee on Education, Culture, Arts and Energy, formalizes the opening of the Museum of the Mind and Body during the gala ceremonies held recently at the Filinvest Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Shown with him during the ribbon-cutting ceremonies are (from left) Department of Education National Capital Region Director Cora Santiago, Marylindbert International president Erlinda Legaspi, DepEd Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo, educator Sandy Schramm-Cayetano, Procter & Gamble president Johnip Cua, and Rep. Allan Cayetano of Taguig. The Museum of the Mind and Body showcases the most complex machine ever, the human mind. The Museum of the Mind and Body is organized by Marylindbert International and is presented by Safeguard.

Product FILES

Simplify your kitchen life

SIMPLIFY your kitchen life with lightweight and easy-to-use small appliances from ABC Electro and Galanz Microwave Ovens.

ABC Electro's line of cordless water kettles features a unique maximum-safety automatic deactivation feature. Just put kettle on its central supply base to heat, and lift off to shut off. Available in 1.2 to 1.7-liter sizes, ABC's cordless water kettles also come in different shapes and colors.

Also available are ABC Electro' sleek and sassy bread toasters. Each model has a cool-touch case and electronic control for perfect browning. Make your own fuss-free fruit or vegetable juice with an ABC Electro blender. Each blender has two speeds and pulse action with stainless steel blades for maximum effect.

ABC Electro home appliances and Galanz microwave ovens are distributed by Chevalier HK Limited Philippine branch office and are available at Western Marketing, Emilio S. Lim Appliance Inc., Anson's Emporium, Rustan's Department Store, Ever Appliances, Crossings Department Store, and Sta. Lucia Department Store. For more inquiries, call 751-1743 and 44 or 752-0243 to 45.

Rise in crude prices worries gov't

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy yesterday noted that local petroleum prices could be affected by the increase in the price of Dubai crude to a three-month high of $26 a barrel last Tuesday.

DOE monitoring showed that the price was the highest since May and that Dubai crude averaged $24.79 a barrel in the first three weeks of August—up by 13 cents from the July average of $24.66.

In a statement, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said world oil prices had been volatile in the past days as a result of the following:

- The United States declaring a possible attack against Iraq and a possible retaliation of Iraq on other Middle Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia;
- Reports that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries was still bent on continuing its oil supply reduction program; and
- Indications of a decline in the oil inventories of major economic powers—United States, Europe and Japan.

Perez noted that threats of a war erupting in the Middle East have fueled uncertainties of instability in the global supply of oil, which would consequently affect prices.

The official also said that the Opec, which will meet next month in Japan, was expected to agree to again put pressure on world oil prices.

He noted that the Opec had agreed with non-Opec producers early this year to lower production and pull up prices to the $25-28 per barrel range.

"We believe these developments in the international market might reflect in the near future on local oil prices," Perez said.

But he also warned local oil firms against taking advantage of the situation.

Roberto Kanapi, spokesperson for Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., said it was too early to tell how the global developments would affect the local market.

"We will continue to monitor these conditions," Kanapi said in a telephone interview.

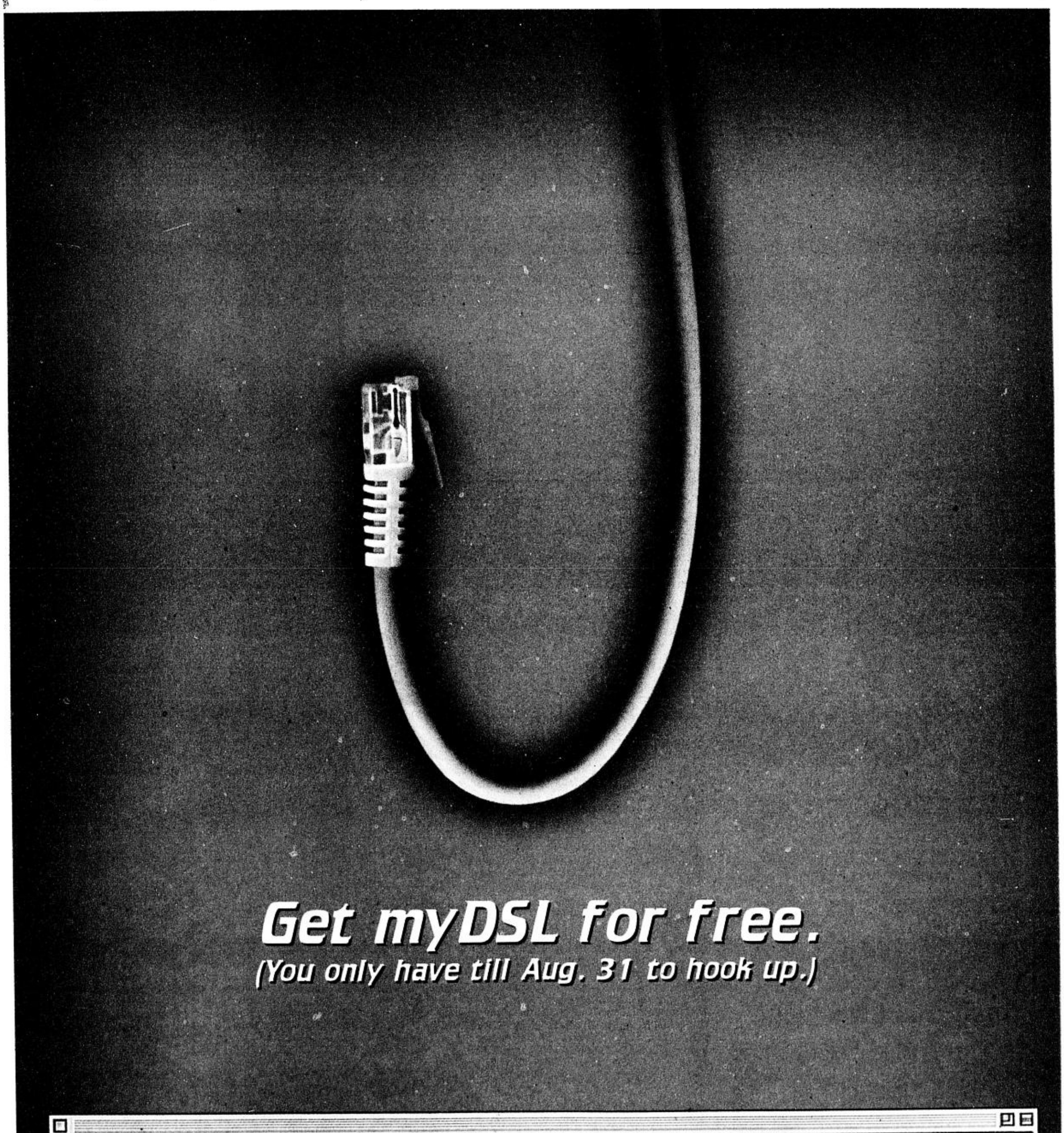
Fernando Martinez, chair of Eastern Petroleum Corp., said the developments were "worrisome."

"There's still a week left in August to reckon and I hope this will not continue," Martinez said.

The executive said that the depreciation of the peso to about 52 to the dollar had aggravated the situation.

"The only question now is how much local prices would increase," he said. "The data we have right now suggest an increase of 70-80 centavos per liter of petroleum product."

As a rule, local oil prices would go up by 35 centavos for every dollar increase in crude prices and by 17 centavos for every peso lost to the dollar.



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The art is in the details

WHITE jersey top with slashed sleeves, smocked hem and floweret accent, and pink-and-white pinstripe capris with lace waistband by Ensembles; metallic gray sandals, hot-pink strung beads necklace, danglers and bracelets

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Mike Alquinto

WE'RE letting you in on a secret. Before you head out that door to pick out new pieces for your wardrobe, here's a peek at the top picks for fashion. This time around, it's all about details, details, details—lace and satin trims, leather and crochet accents, soft fringes and frills—little elements that give even the most basic pieces that much-needed edge.

THE ART/ p.C2

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CAMEL knit top with slashed sleeves and flared, stretch pinstripe hipster slacks by Ensembles, leather fringe belt, matching black bag and sandals

Fashion is like food dressing. It's a merry mix-up

EMERALD green metallic georgette halter top with blue glass trim and indigo hipster denim with topstitching and pin tucks by 22 BC, and silver sandals

MICROPLEAT texturized turtleneck in olive green and knee-length cotton skirt with crochet appliqué and belt by Ensembles, tan strappy sandals and olive green danglers

THREE-QUARTER-SLEEVE basic white tee with vari-fold pleats and red lightweight stretch denims with eyelet-leather string detail by Ensembles, red leather handbag and matching sandals

The art is in the details

BANDANNA-PRINT dress with drop-hanky bias hem, lace and leather trimming and adjustable straps by Ensembles, and tan strappy sandals

From page C1

Imagine a bowl of plain vanilla ice cream—unexciting, sure, but add some whipped cream, candy sprinkles, chopped nuts, hot fudge and maraschino cherries on top—and you're begging for seconds.

The same idea applies to dressing. The trick is not to go crazy or over the top, but just add a little something extra to give simple pieces some measure of vivacity.

At Ensembles and 22 BC boutiques, much-loved flared denims and slacks are updated with lace waistbands and leather string fastenings. They've even added pin tucks and topstitches on some pairs—de rigueur for those who want their thighs to look slimmer. Ordinary skirts get oomph with leather string details and crochet appliqués—very feminine but with some spunk thrown in.

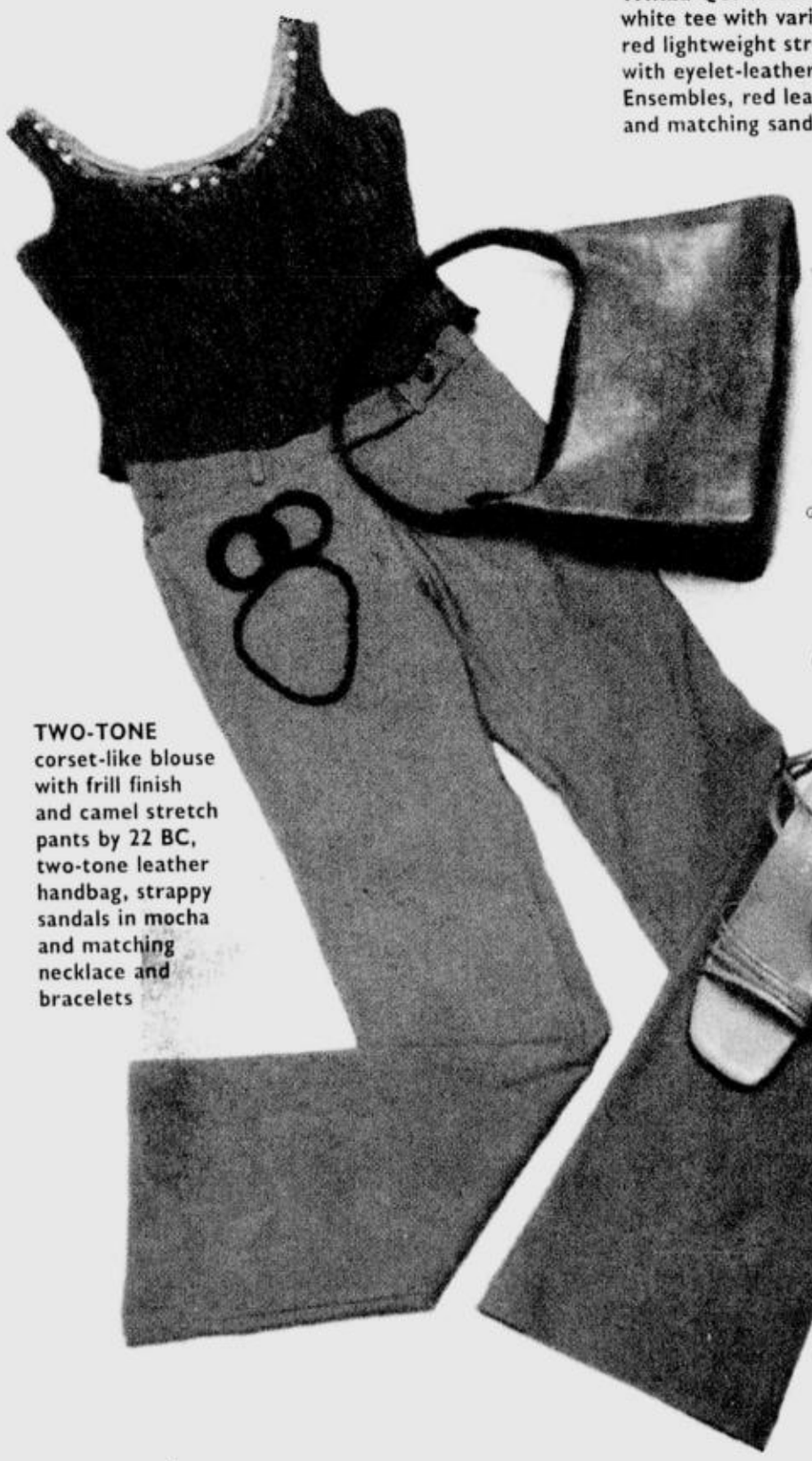
Basic tees depart from the usual with vari-fold tees on the cuffs and chest. It's sweet and sexy from this point on as casual tops get fresh treatments with slashed sleeves and floral accents. The less daring can shed the reserve and try to live a little with flirty tanks and halters, as they get a dash of flair with satin trims, glass beads and even sequins—party perfect for after-work cocktails.

Women who can't get enough of soft, feminine dresses are in for fresh pieces with unusual mix of elements like lace and leather.

Accessorizing has never been easier. Forget those precious rocks and shiny metals and grab some of those cheaper trinkets (read: beads, beads, beads). Worn with flair, you'll look no less chic and priceless.

Right clothes, right accessories, but wrong shoes and you're down the fashion drain. You can never go wrong with high-heeled strappies, so try on a pair or two while you're at it (as if your shoe closet is not crowded enough).

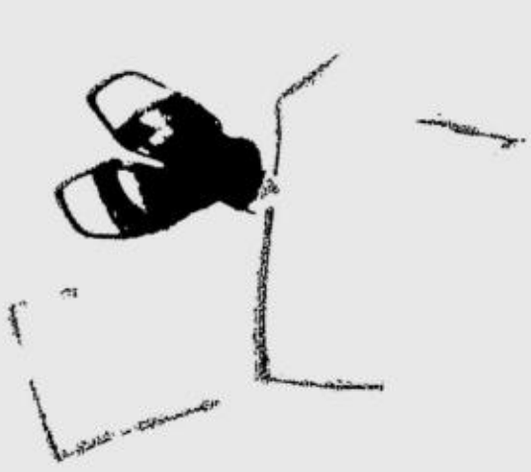
And, hey, since it's all about details, don't forget to paint those toes.



TWO-TONE corset-like blouse with frill finish and camel stretch pants by 22 BC, two-tone leather handbag, strappy sandals in mocha and matching necklace and bracelets

ALL CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE AT ENSEMBLES (WITH BRANCHES AT SM MEGAMALL A, ROBINSONS GALLERIA, GLORIETTA 1 AND ROBINSONS NOVALICHES) AND 22 BC (AT SM BOUTIQUE SQUARE IN NORTH EDSA, CUBAO, MEGAMALL, MAKATI AND MANILA) SHOES BY AKITA AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY AT ENSEMBLES

PAISLEY-PRINT top with cap sleeves and stretch cotton miniskirt in khaki with eyelet-leather string detail at the waist by Ensembles; two-tone leather handbag, chocolate brown necklace and bracelets



FULLY sequined aqua tank top and white pants with zipped welt pockets by 22 BC; metallic gray sandals, teal blue bead necklace and bracelets, and stylist's own silver bangles and silver turquoise ring

She has found a better-looking guy

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm 23. My boyfriend is tall, dark, but not handsome. He has a big tummy and his face is only close too plain. My mom says he's too ugly for me, and maybe she's right. But I've learned to love him because he makes me feel special and his family likes me a lot.

Recently though, I met a good-looking guy in school. He started a conversation with me and asked for my telephone number, which I gave to him. He called that night and we talked for 30 minutes. The next day, we talked for almost half a day. Before he hung up, he said he thought of dropping the subject where we are classmates, but is now having second thoughts because of me.

I must admit that I also like him, Tita, and I'm sure my mom will also like him. The problem is, how do I tell this to my boyfriend?

SHANNA

I have grave doubts about this new guy, *hija*. Not only did he keep your phone tied up for hours, he also opened up to you only behind a phone, and he courted you on his second call. He may be good-looking, but his character strikes me as less than plain. And in that sense, he is as unimpressive as your current boyfriend.

Given that they are both unimpressive, what made you fall in love with both of them? I can only think of this: They both make you feel special.

Sometimes, even when we are already 23 or 53, our heart still behaves like we are only 3; we don't fall in love, we simply love being loved. It's not a man that we love, but the love he gives us, and we leave a man not because we love another man, but because the love that a new man offers us is better packaged and marketed.

Your new suitor might have come in a better package, but his marketing is poor, and I doubt if he really is a better product. He has benefited you only in one sense—by tempting you so easily away from your boyfriend, he made you realize that you don't truly love the latter.

So, break up (as gently as you can) with your current boyfriend, but don't go for this new guy. Wait for the man who will make you see what true love is—a love that makes you want to give more than it makes you want to receive.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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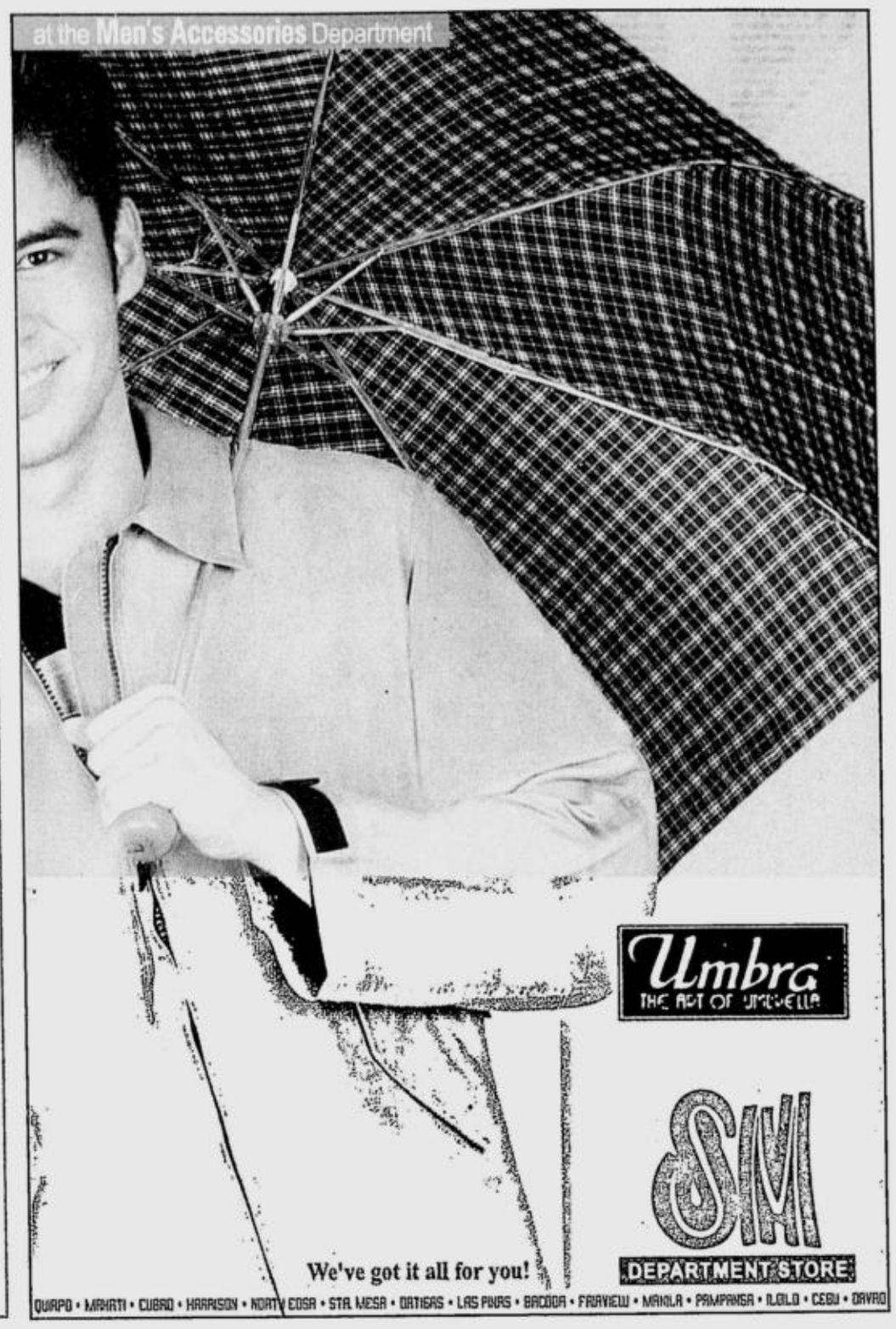

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Together time after time

THE FAB partnership that binds Swatch and Mega magazine together will be celebrated tonight at the Activity Center of The Podium in Ortigas Center, Pasig City, with a black-and-Swatch theme.

Swatch is on its 15th year of synchronizing fashion aficionados with its innovative designs that have always been attuned to the trends of time, while Mega, now on its 10th year as fashion chronicler, is holding its fifth Style Annual.

Guests are in for a salvo of surprises, which include Swatch's brand of runway presentations, directed by Rowell Santiago, with Martin Nievera hosting. Set to seize the runway with their Swatch-inspired pieces are some of the country's notable designers: Gail Gozum, Tippy Ocampo, Rhett Eala, Len Nepomuceno-Giao, Katrina Goulbourn, Paolo Raymundo, Cecil Zamora, Arcy Gayatin, Noni Diza, Joji Lloren and Dennis Lustico, and the fifth batch of the Mega Young Designers' Competition: RCXY Bautista, Mich Dulce, LZ Punzalan, Chris Diaz, Ivar Aseron, James Reyes, Roel Rosal, Lizanne Cua and this year's overall winner, Alex Pigao.

ENTERTAINER of the Year Martin Nievera hosts, and Swatch Babe Sarah Meier celebrates her birthday at the Podium as Mega Magazine celebrates 15 years of Swatch in the Philippines.

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celebrates
15 years of
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at the Podium
Swatchy or Black and a Swatch

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trend notion

THINGS come to those who wait: The pair of Bruno Maglis found on sale in London two years later

Fashion karma

In matters of style as in everything else in life, some things are just meant to be

By Kitty Go
Contributor

THERE is no element in my life where destiny or karma is more evident than in fashion. Love doesn't even make the grade. And I'm not talking a fashion career here, either. I'm talking real, falling-in-love-head-over-heels-with-a-piece fashion—my dysfunctional love affair with clothes and accessories.

I have had to reluctantly trudge across the world in search of fashion and, as you will read later, some of my Manolo-Blahnik-shod friends also do the walking for me (but only some of it as in these days of MMS and Internet, fingers, more than spindle-heeled shoes, do the walking). Together with countless other fashion pilgrims, I may (literally) epitomize the phrase "a dedicated follower of fashion." And by "follower," I mean I follow the stuff (or the stuff follows me) across continents.

FASHION/ p.D3

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We just developed an advanced feeding bottle.

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An ingenious innovation to complement the wonders of breastfeeding. While mothers can't always enjoy this special time with her child, pumping breast milk is the next best thing. So we created a bottle for a smooth transition, which can meet your child's needs.

Unlike other nipples, Evenflo Elite has a gentle sloping shape, allowing your child to latch on comfortably. What's more, the Evenflo Elite has a nipple that reacts to your child's suckling. Made from soft and flexible silicone, it adjusts to your child's pressure while feeding so it can give out just the right amount of liquid.

We even thought about your child's age. Our nipples are made with different flow capabilities. There's the "slow flow", the "medium flow" and the "fast flow". It's an innovation that gives the right flow based on your child's age and feeding needs. And what about the nipple cover? Its unique shape features an inner wall that creates a barrier to help keep the nipple clean at all times. Plus, our nipple cover comes with ventilation holes that circulates air evenly.

Cholic problems will likewise be a thing of the past. Directly under the nipple are Micro Air Vents which keep air from your child's tummy. These vents allow air to return to the bottle preventing nipple collapse and greatly reducing cholic pains. Not to mention sleepless hours.

And while other bottles are stuck with an upright design, Evenflo Elite's unusual form serves a significant purpose. Its pediatric angled bottle helps keep the nipple filled to reduce air intake and promotes semi-upright feeding. This lessens the chances of inner ear infection. Plus, its wide opening and ergonomic shape makes for easy handling and cleaning.

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SIMO — BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS — BY PATRICK McDONNELL

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Woody Harrelson, Stephanie Seymour, Raymond Chandler, Arata Isozaki
Happy Birthday: You will have plenty of ideas; if you take the time to develop them properly, you'll see profits or rewards. Expect to experience sudden changes in your life this year. You will be a powerhouse when it comes to getting things done. Your numbers are 13, 21, 26, 32, 34, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It is likely that someone is using their charm to find out information, not to become closer to you. Don't mix business with pleasure and don't fall for someone just because they are paying attention to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get involved in an organization that responds to a cause you believe in. Your desire for leadership will put you in the limelight. You are steady and hard working

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You are likely to get involved in unwise joint financial ventures today. Legal problems will not turn in your favor. Losses and theft are also evident. Leave important matters until later in the week.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll help those you care about, regardless of the time it takes. Your kindness will be reciprocated by most, but not by everyone. Don't let this disappoint you; use it as a lesson.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be inspired to make money through unusual and intriguing means. You will have a unique connection to one of your peers and you will learn a great deal if you observe his or her actions today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out and do more with friends today. Worthwhile groups will be glad to have your dedicated support. You will develop a friendship with an older, established person who can teach you the ropes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your imagination in order to make some extra cash today. A home-based business will probably do better than you anticipate. Invest in yourself and your own interests.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your standards will be high today, especially when it comes to your relationships. You will attract someone who will overreact to situations. Don't try to make decisions for other people.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You should try your hand at a variety of ways to earn a living. Working for yourself is probably your best bet. You'll get along well with your colleagues and you may be able to interest one of them to go into business with you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be aggressive in your pursuits today and your emotions will be close to the surface. Your determined approach will bring results, however, don't promise too much.

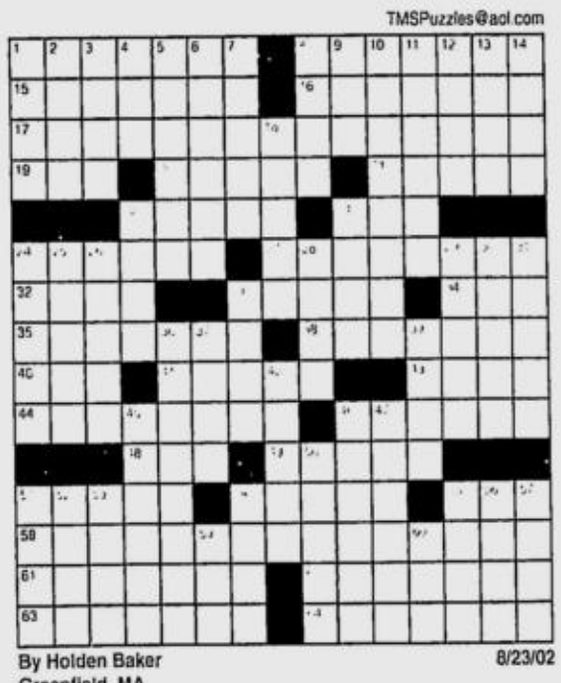
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Delays in communication and educational pursuits will hold you back today. You may experience confusion that is likely to result in making a poor decision. Ask for sound advice.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to feel that you are contributing to something worthwhile. Let some of the people you meet lend you a helping hand. It's the favors you so graciously accept that will help change the course of your life.

Birthday Baby: You will be entertaining, yet studious and practical at the same time. You will always want to see what makes things work, and will be eager to take apart everything.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA

8/23/02

ACROSS
1 Crop pests
8 Leaves empty
15 Before
16 Mesabi Range output
17 Noted resident of Frostbite Falls
19 Pub brew
20 "Fibber __ and Molly"
21 Exploited a vein
22 Bigot
23 Holy sister
24 Shiny fabrics
27 Renew a connection
32 Norway's patron saint
33 __ eleison (Lord, have mercy)
34 To's companion
35 No-win situation
38 Our satellite when waning
40 Seller's $ equivocation
41 "Them" author
43 First-rate
44 Traveling musician
46 Oxidized
48 Poker winnings
49 Desktop graphics
51 Sub finder
54 Quantities of wood
55 __ wiedersehen!
58 Tasty styling foam?
61 McCourt's "__ Ashes"
62 Silents followers
63 Thingamabobs
64 Makes beloved

DOWN
1 Raisin rum cake
2 Hebrew month
3 __ Stanley Gardner
4 Part of AT&T
5 Wyatt Earp, e.g.
6 Decrees
7 Irish playwright
8 Disgusting
9 Exist
10 Traveled by shuttle, often
11 Consecrate with oil
12 Tree with dark red wood
13 Irish Gaelic
14 Future plant
18 Irish county
22 Buzzers' abode
23 Claw
24 __ and Gomorrah
25 Excuse
26 Eagle claw
28 Cupid
29 In the offing
30 Old hag
31 Sharpened
33 Writer Wilhelm
36 Sony rival
37 Shopping spot
39 Large group
42 T.S. __
45 Disunited
46 Dennis of the NBA
47 Still on the shelf
50 Mediterranean island
51 Great quantity
52 It can't be!
53 Inoperative, to NASA
54 Actress Peggy
55 One continent
56 Manipulator
57 Actor Parker
59 Young boy
60 Luau guitar, briefly

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	L	L		P	A	S	T		R	A	D	A	R
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D	I	V	A		S	T	A	R		L	U	T	E	S
E	V	E	R	Y	T	H	I	N	G	I	S			
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U	P	P	E	D		P	I	L	E		S	L	O	E

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8/23/02

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS — BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK — BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Fashion karma

From page D1

It occurred to me, as I was packing a rhinestone-studded and riveted Sonia Rykiel denim dress from last spring, that the likely reason I am attached to my things is that I feel that either a) I have taken pains to acquire them or b) they were meant to be mine as I will illustrate with some stylish examples. Of course, what I like may not be for everyone but you get the (Helmut Newton) picture, right?

Desperately seeking Sonia

I am not one who believes in putting my name on a waiting list, as I think that once you have to do so, the trend will be so far along into its sell-by period that a 60-year-old *hopia* would look fresh. What I'm talking about is the acquisition of things you feel are totally you.

Take for example the Sonia Rykiel dress. I first spotted it at a little shop in Notting Hill Gate called Aime. It wasn't on sale and the only size available was 38. A 40 would have been better. At 38, it was big enough to be worn open as a coat but too small to be buttoned up and worn as a dress. For £250, it wasn't worth buying even if I made it into an expensive wall covering. For everything I buy, I have to be able to wear it at least two ways or with at least two things in my existing wardrobe. Like a rich guy who is terrible in bed, this dress had great potential but failed miserably in the fit department. So I had to pass.

Like all fateful fashion acquisitions, I abandoned the dress, thinking it wasn't meant to be. But two weeks later, in a small town over 500 km out of Paris, I spotted the same dress with a tag "Soldes 30%" ("sale" in French and the first word I ever learned in that language). I asked to try it on and was told that the one on the mannequin was the last one, and was I, by chance, a "*quarante*"? Yes! Things become even more karmic when bought with a discount, as I try not to pay full price for anything except dog food.

Manolo in Manila

Shoes are another buy I have mastered, having had to live with my big feet for 40 years. Last spring (hmmm... Come to think of it, I seem to have bought a lot of stuff from last spring), I wanted to get a pair of burgundy Manolo Blahnik fringed thongs. Of course I wanted them on sale! At Lane Crawford in Hong Kong, they were out of size 40 (my magic number for shoes and clothes). I didn't even bother with the Manolo Blahnik boutique at Landmark as they never carry anything over 38 and, once, even had a salesgirl tell me there that "we only sell women's sizes." Did I look like a Chinese opera drag queen or what?

Anyway, another dedicated follower of fashion (now 20 pounds lighter, so let's call her "LT" for less-20) rang me from Wish at the 6750 building, wanting to know the difference in fit between Earl, Seven and Lucky jeans. (FYI, I haven't owned any Sevens or Luckys but Earl fits women with boyish bodies. Rubenesque—in today's pop art terms, J. Lo-types are better off with Levi's or Guess.) She asked me if there was anything I wanted. Ha! This was my chance to see if they had the fringed Manolos in a 40. They did. But they weren't on sale. I was told there were only three pairs left and only one was a 40. And "*talagang mabili*." Now, I have a problem with the line "*talagang mabili*" as I do not own a retail store and it is not my business to move stock. If I know anything I like is popular, it gets taken off my wish list. So, I thought and thought, like I do at the market when I choose between Volvic (my favorite water) not on sale and Evian on sale. I said, "Pass. If everyone having a pedicure has it, I don't want it." We made a pact: She'll scour the sales in San Francisco and I'd look for them in London. Plus I had to get her iconic-stripped leather Bally bag. That was in June.

In July, while I was dying of bleach fumes cleaning my bathroom in France, I got an unexpected text from Earl-clad LT, who was deciding on a jean jacket at Wish: "The red Manolos are on sale. Do you want them?" Of course! Forget the fact that a thousand other people and their overly made-up mothers-in-law will have them. If they're on sale, they're on sale. "You know," she said, "You were smart to wait. It was meant to be."

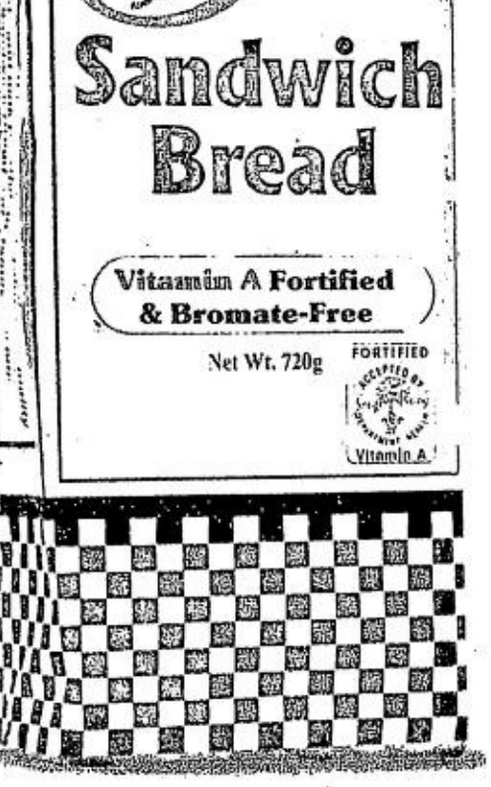
Roman holiday

I'm not saying that when it's meant to be, it happens right away. Sometimes you have to wait years. But, like a lost love, it's always at the back of your mind. It's very much like finding a boyfriend, but shoes take a little less time and you don't have to make conversation or suffer bad sex.

Take my favorite pair of purple Bruno Maglis adorned with huge sequined comets. I first saw them in Rome for 1-million lira (about $500). I wanted to buy them because, like a significant other, I felt the shoes and I "were meant to be." (Funny enough, I discovered the shoes were my sole mates when I was on honeymoon!)

Of course, two-thirds of the Italian population and another third from neighboring countries, not counting the Americans and Asians, have seen them, but the shoes spoke to me and me alone. "What? Are those shoes made of real jewels?" exclaimed my new husband when I told him the price. Not wanting to end my marriage on its second day, I decided not to pawn my engagement ring for the shoes.

FASHION/ p.D4



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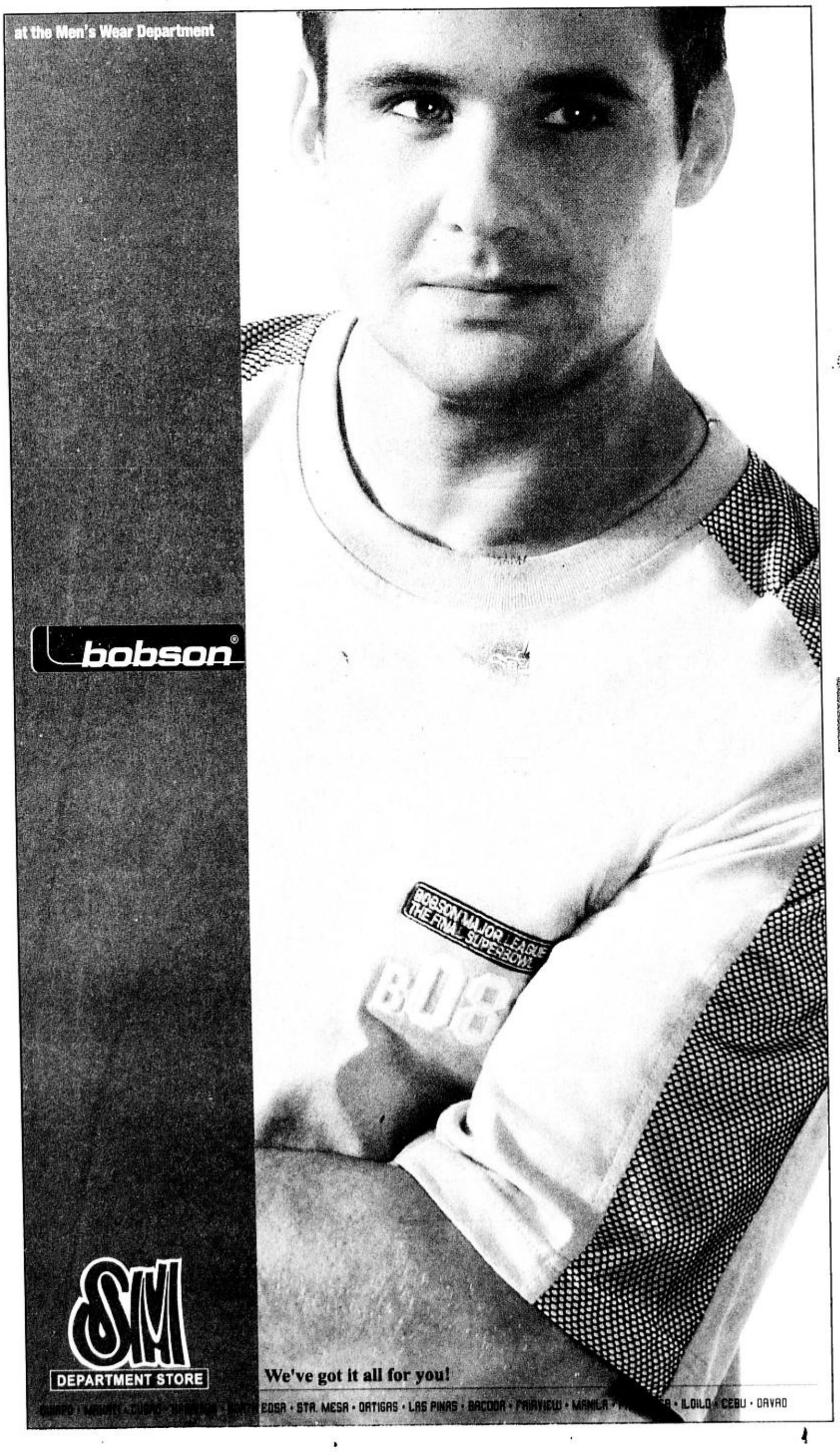
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Vitamin A

Bitbit na!
Goldilocks
How thoughtful. How Goldilocks.



Fashion karma

From page D3

Cut to sale time—two long years later, sitting in a taxi on Sloane Street in London: I happened to look at the windows at Kurt Geiger (a store that, I thought, went out with the Pierre Cardin shirt) and there it was, in the size 40 rack on sale! Could it be the same one I saw in Rome? But that was Magli and this was Geiger. "Stoooaaappp!" I said in my best British English, "I'm getting down here." I walked into the store, feeling like an adopted child about to meet her biological parents for the first time. Could it be that the shoes found me?

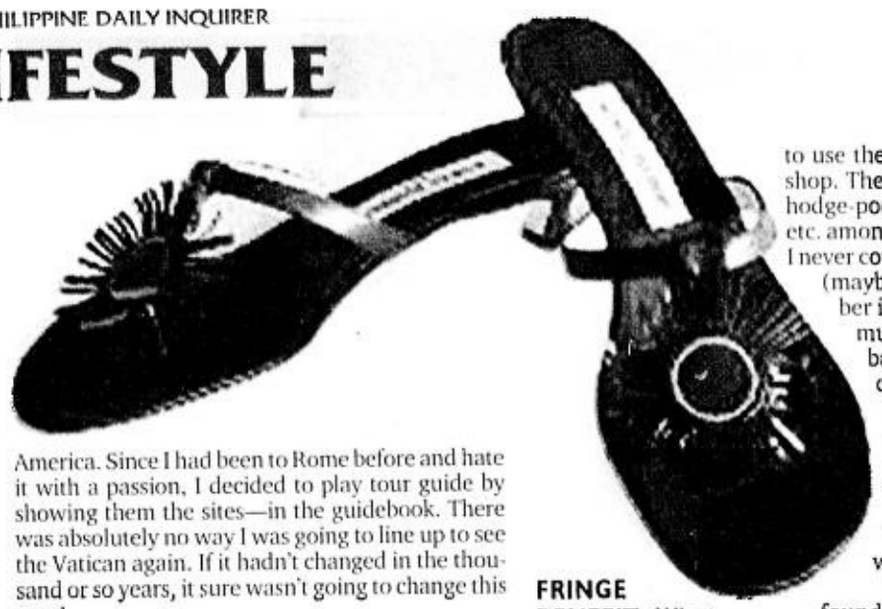
The label said "Bruno Magli, LP." To fashion aficionados, LP means last pair. The size: 40. I bought it right away for less than half the price of what it was two years ago. So what if it was two years ago! It was less than half price and no one needs to know if they "were made of real jewels."

The bag lady

I like Hogan bags as I think the quality of the leather is exceptional and the styles are extremely functional. Plus, there usually is no obvious label. Unfortunately, distribution is usually limited to those featured in major advertising campaigns and before you know it, every woman looking to throw out her Schenzen-inspired Prada will be toting a Hogan.

In March, I visited Rome with some friends from America. Since I had been to Rome before and hate it with a passion, I decided to play tour guide by showing them the sites—in the guidebook. There was absolutely no way I was going to line up to see the Vatican again. If it hadn't changed in the thousand or so years, it sure wasn't going to change this year!

I do make one pilgrimage every time I'm in Rome to the Via Babuino, home to the luxurious and star-studded Hotel de la Russie (where I go to use the bathroom) and the Costume National shop. There is a tiny shop on that street selling a hodge-podge of brands like Tod's, Pirelli, Hogan, etc. among golf equipment and children's clothes. I never could understand the direction of this shop (maybe there is none) and can never remember its name. But it was here that I spotted a multiple-zippered chocolate-brown Hogan bag with adjustable straps for a price that could pay off our national debt. As much as I loved it and as much as the Fracas-scented saleslady assured me that there would be no major ad featuring this or editorials in Italian Vogue, I had to pass. I thought the money would be put into better use buying dog food and Volvic water.



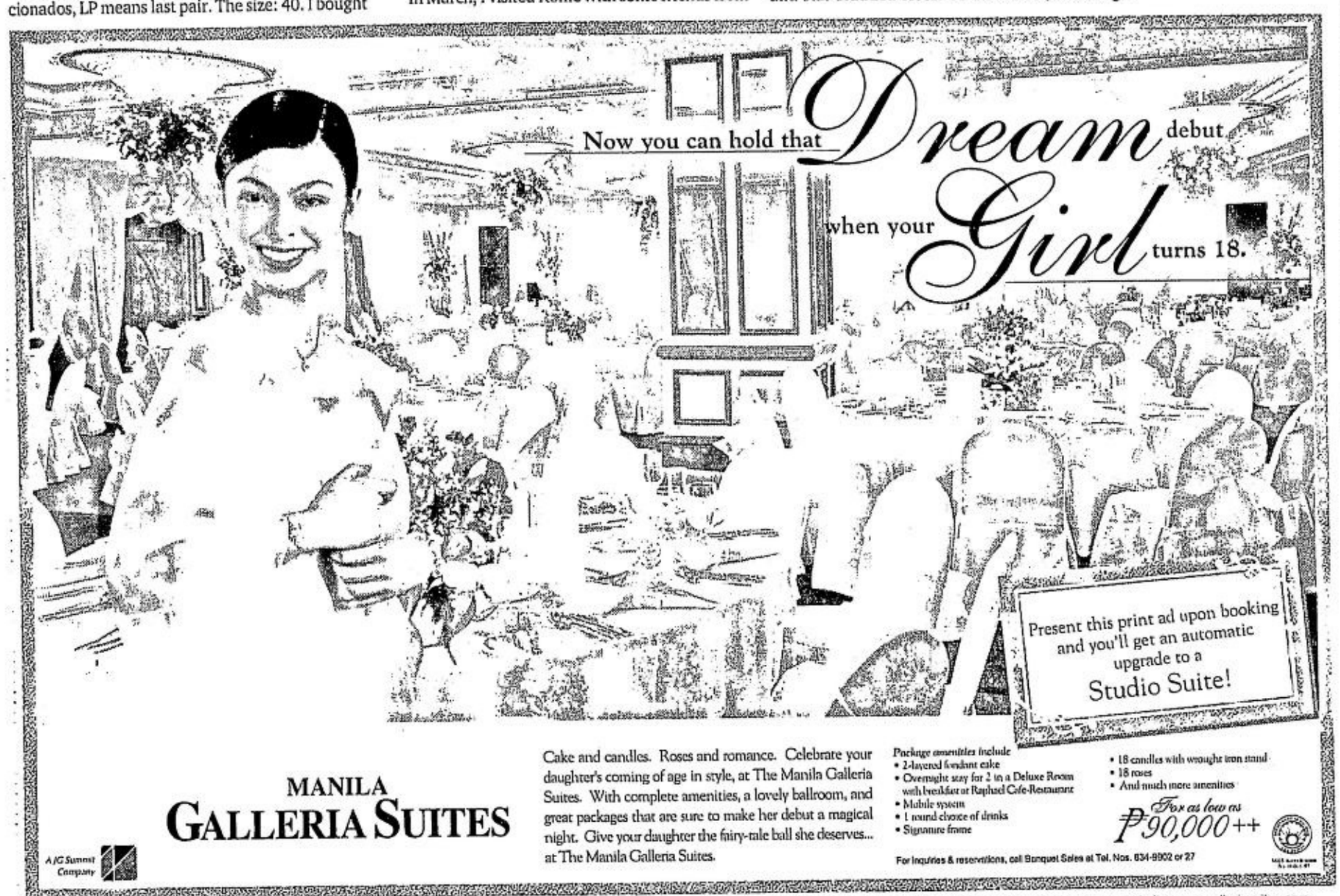
FRINGE BENEFIT. What texting can do to make a sale.

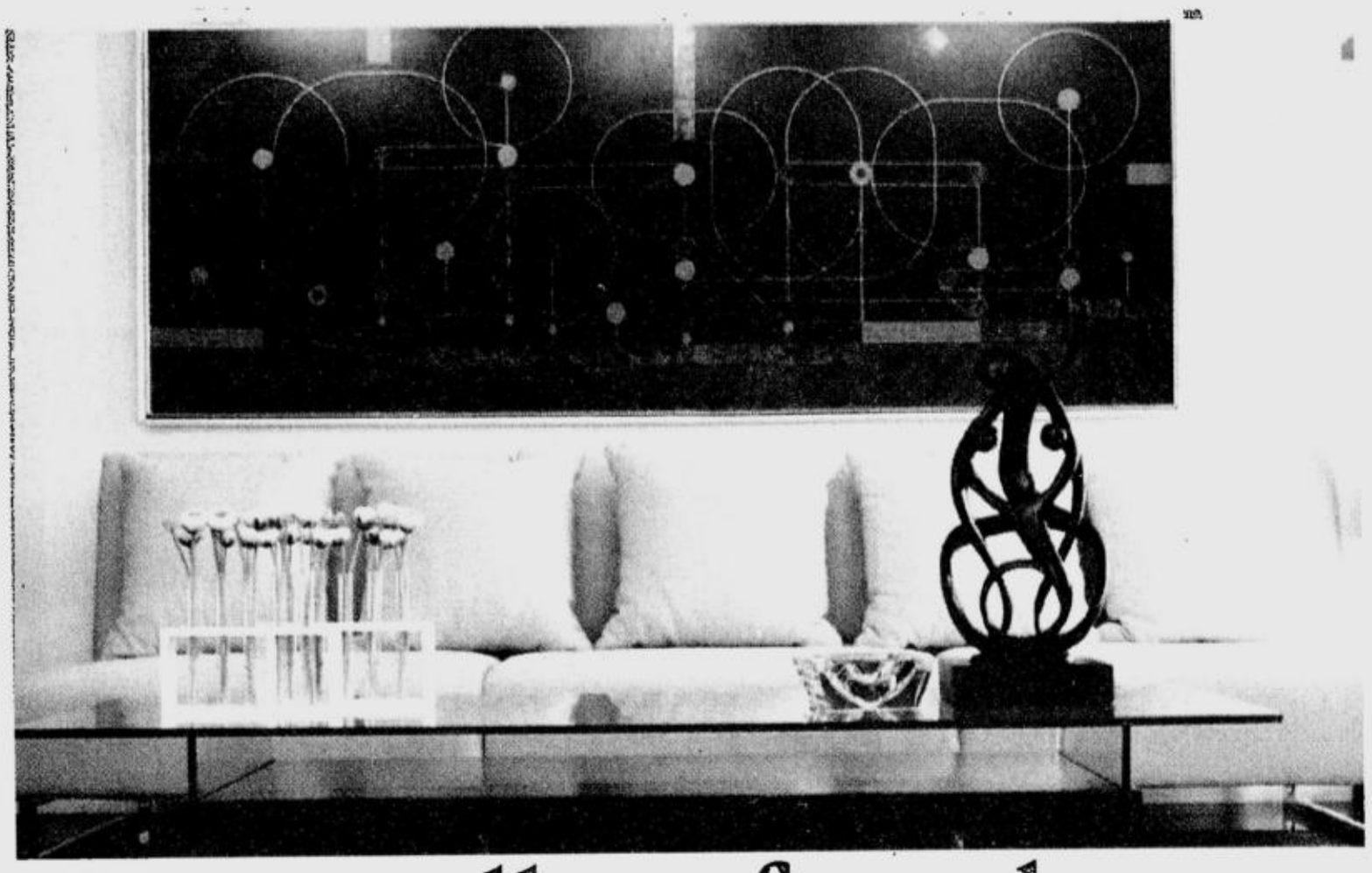
But when I traveled to France in July, I found that my quirky Anya Hindmarch bag (given to me by—you guessed it—my fashion *amiga* LT), perfect for posing at the Place d'Elise, proved to be way too glamorous for the *marche*, Carrefour and firewood warehouse. I needed a bag that had many separate compartments—one with a lot of zippers and pockets where I could put notebooks, floor plans and a calculator. In other words, something like the zippered Hogan bag I saw in Rome.

So off I went in search of the perfect working bag in a small French Alpine town. My chances of finding a great bag were as good as Richard Gomez getting to costar with Brad Pitt and Harrison Ford in a Tanduay Rum commercial (he may have better luck with Jean Claude van Damme or Steven Seagal in a detergent commercial), let alone the multi-zippered chocolate-brown Hogan. But there it was, sitting in the center of a store called Big Boss (an atrocious name for a store with fantastic things and good service, a rarity in continental Europe). This cannot be classified as anything but Fate. I bought it.

So, the dogs are going to have to eat scraps until the end of the year and I'm going to have to start drinking Wilkins. What can be so bad? It's in the bag!

IT'S IN THE BAG. Dog food and Volvic supplies will suffer for the purchase of this Hogan bag.





AN ARTWORK by National Artist Arturo Luz frames a sitting area featuring an Italian-inspired sofa and glass-topped coffee table.

An art gallery for a home

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

THE CLIENT wanted a modern dwelling with enough space to feature his extensive art collection. With their work cut out for them, sisters Ivy and Cynthia Almario of Atelier Almario set about transforming a condo unit in one of Makati's upscale neighborhoods into a minimalist refuge showcasing abstract pieces of art.

"This is our most modern work to date," says Cynthia. "Lines are mostly straight and the color scheme limited to neutral and contrasting shades to bring out the artworks."

One of the first things the sisters did was replace the original wooden parquet floor with large slabs of black granite to provide a dramatic contrast to the all-white walls. For a more streamlined look, the sisters later lined sections of the granite surface with chrome strips.

"The process was a bit expensive," says Ivy, who worked with architect Santy Lomotan. "But it was clear from the start that the artworks were the stars of the show. Our client spared no expense to achieve his vision (the owner wishes to remain anonymous)."

The living room is quite large by condo standards and modern touches are evident in the choice of furniture. A large Italian-inspired sofa covered with a beige fabric is sandwiched between a pair of sleek etageres with glass shelves in one corner of the living room. Several white Barcelona chairs have been added to the mix. A huge painting by National Artist Arturo Luz frames the entire setup.

Another sitting area features an even bigger L-shaped sofa, this time wrapped in white fabric. A pair of abstract paintings by Gus Albor in shades of red and beige adds warmth and color to an otherwise bare, white wall.

Both sitting areas are bordered by black area rugs with white linear accents.

Expensive blinds

Half of the living room is made more impressive by a double-volume ceiling. Several floor-to-ceiling glass windows allow natural light into the room. To minimize the glare from the harsh afternoon sun, the sisters chose sleek silhouette blinds from Hunter Douglas, an American company.

The window dressing is probably no different from your typical Venetian blinds, except that both sides of the device is covered with a sheer material. The occupants can easily tone down the glare or block it out entirely by manipulating the blades with a flick of a switch.

"The system ate up a substantial part of the budget," says Cynthia. "We could have used cheaper side drapes or Roman shades, but we wanted something to complete the look."

A huge white wall opposite the elevated

AN ART/ p.E2

GUS Albor's abstract work by the glass-topped dining table

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

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Real People. True Stories.

"I've worked hard for all I've achieved – but why should it show on my skin? Imedeen's my way of saying 'thank you' to myself."

Alice Devulgado, 47,
former working student,
now founder & president of
ABD Overseas Manpower Corp.

As a child in Abra, Alice crossed a river to reach school -- today, she helps others cross oceans to a better life. But this hardworking lady doesn't forget herself in the process: "Others spend on clothes or jewelry – why not on your skin?" Of course, an achiever like Alice demands a product that delivers – that's why she uses Imedeen. Imedeen works on skin's inner layers -- for firm, radiant skin 24 hours a day. "My colleagues notice that despite a hectic and stressful schedule, I still manage to look good...when they ask why I'm 'blooming', I tell them: it's not a facelift, it's Imedeen!" Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

Clinically Proven
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The Skin Care Tablet

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For more stories of real women, www.imedeen.com

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It only has all the natural goodness of tuna:

Low-Fat Protein
for muscle-building,

Omega 3
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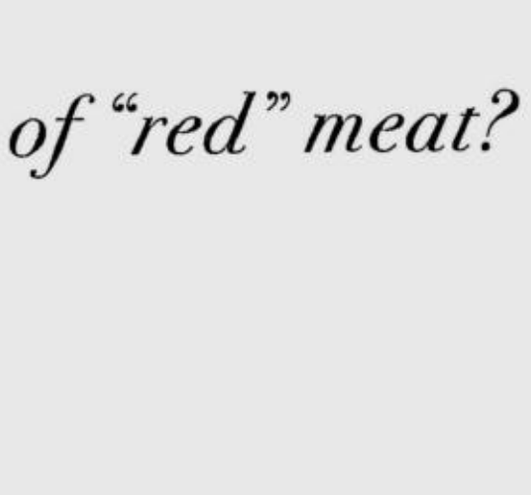
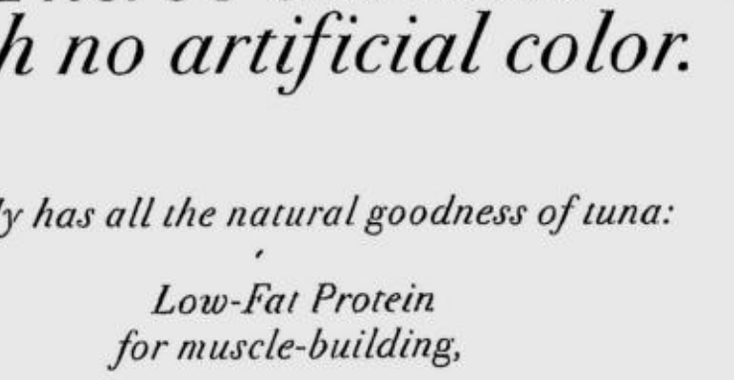
& DHA for babies'
brain development.

No preservatives.
Lowest in cholesterol.

Simply the healthiest meat.

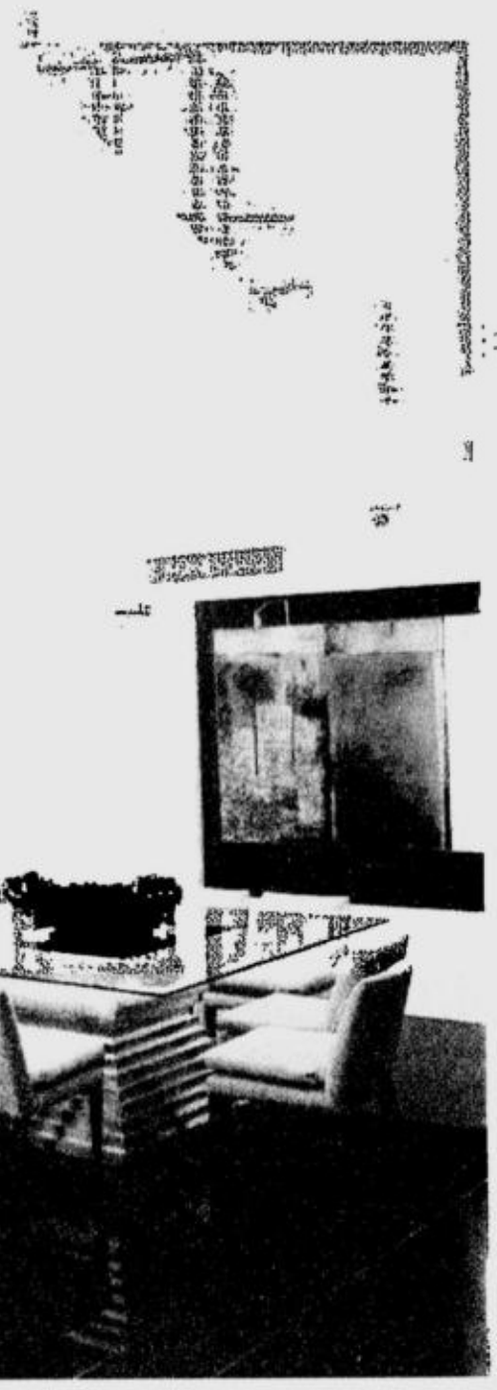




the Supermeat

A GLASS sculpture by Ramon Orlina acts as a focal point by the stair landing. The spare furniture and accent pieces include the Barcelona chair, side table and structural floor lamp.

It was clear from the start that the artworks were the stars of the show



ASIDE from Albor's artwork, a pair of abstract paintings in mixed media by Spanish artist Gines Serran-Pagan hangs by the dining room wall.

An art gallery for a home

From page E1

windows features an abstract painting by a Bali-based artist. Red-painted matting frames the artwork, making it look bigger than its actual size. The sisters use the same device for a smaller artwork by the same artist.

One of the windows by the living room frames a glass sculpture by Ramon Orlina. A second piece acts as a focal point in the glass-lined stairs. In keeping with the artworks, most of the accent pieces in the living room are sculptural as well.

A pair of floor lamps from Artemedi, for instance, is both aesthetic and functional. In lieu of a lampshade, the sisters opted for a so-called mushroom lamp for the living room. Cynthia's life-like artificial plants add a touch of green to the entire setup. Real plants are reserved for an outdoor garden done by Rico Sison.

Oasis in concrete jungle

"It's like an oasis in the middle of a concrete setting," says Cynthia. "Having grown up in a big house with a real garden, the owner wanted one no matter how small."

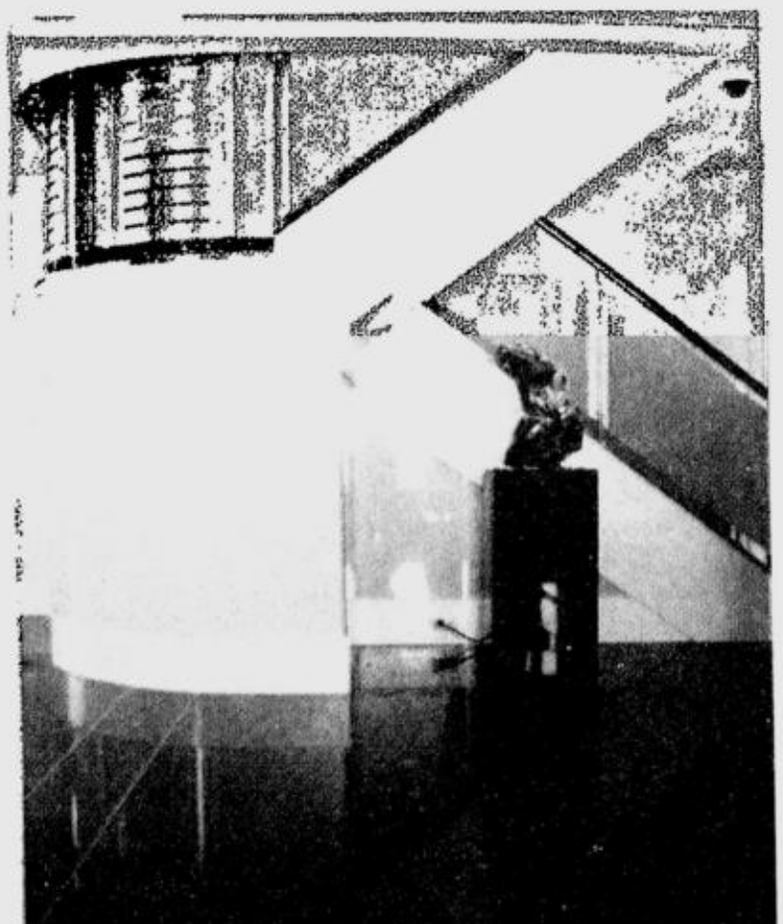
The stairs also underwent a makeover. Ordinary metal railings were removed and replaced with frosted glass and stainless steel. To address one of the hassles of condo living—limited space—the sisters converted the landing into a storage area by enclosing it in Graphicote. A pair of mirrors conceals the bar area while providing an illusion of space.

Surprisingly, the home does not seem cold despite the predominance of modern elements like stainless steel, frosted glass and black granite. "It's all in the positioning of the furniture pieces," says Ivy. "They're placed in such a way as to promote human interaction."

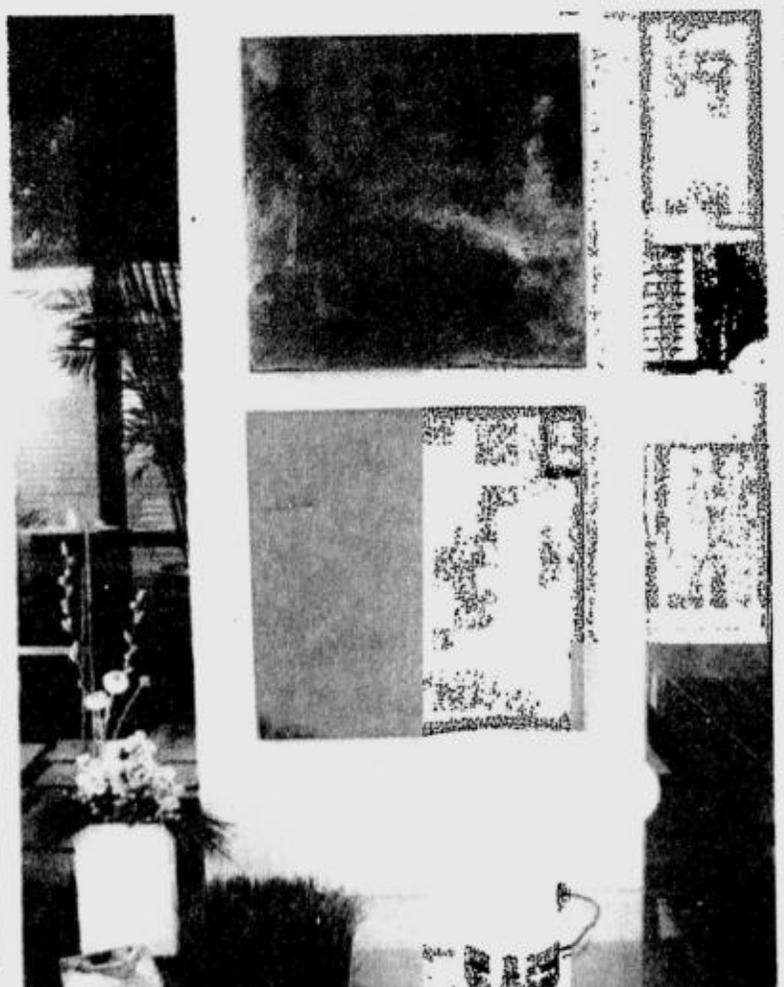
A similar principle applies to the owner's precious art pieces. Everything becomes a conversation piece by being positioned strategically for maximum impact.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

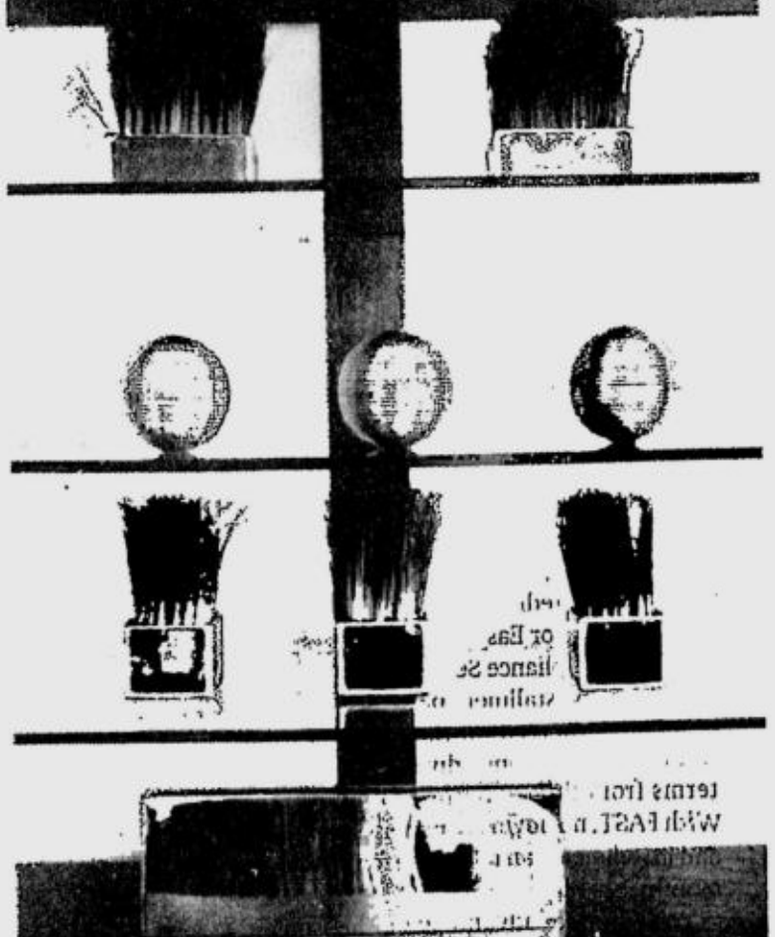
A SECOND sitting area features an L-shaped sofa and glass-topped coffee table. A set of windows overlooking Makati frames an Orlina sculpture.



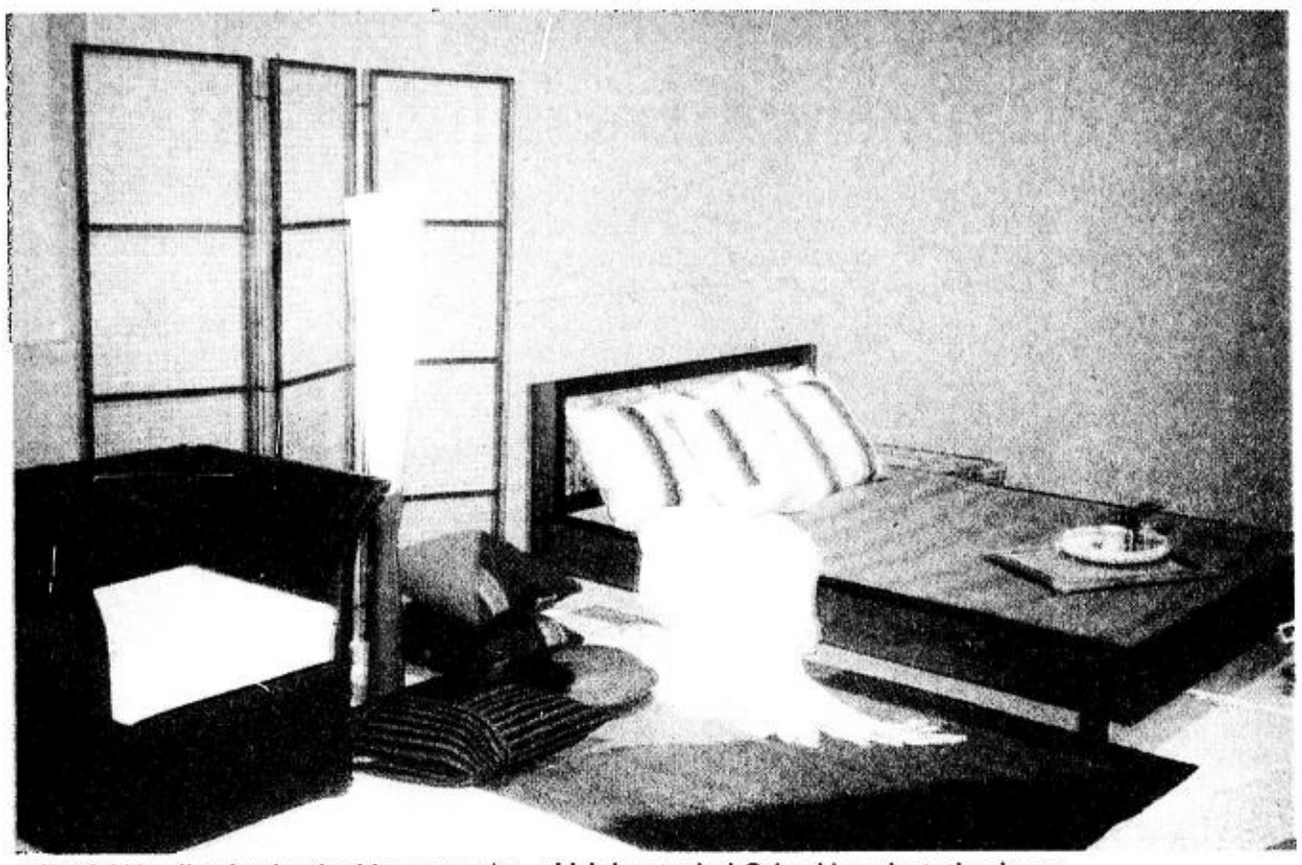
WOODEN parquet flooring is replaced by black granite with chrome inserts. The glass-and-steel-lined staircase underscores the unit's modern look. The landing is now a storage area wrapped in Graphicote



TWO Gus Albor works and an Artemedi structural lamp



ONE of two etageres in Walnut finish with glass shelves features metallic accent pieces.



BEDROOM collection inspired by *casa quita*, which is a typical Colombian plantation home.

PJ Arañador and his team of 30 Colombian designers

Filipino designs lifestyle objects for Colombian line

PJ Arañador has been commissioned to conceptualize, develop and unfold lifestyle objects with a distinct Colombian look for a collection named Casa Colombiana.

The Filipino designer of lifestyle objects, and member of the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP) has been assisting Colombians in developing design-led crafts for the world market for the past three years. He was commissioned by the Artesanias de Colombia, an agency of the Ministerio de Desarollo Economico of the government of Colombia.

Casa Colombiana aims to define an image for the Latin American country. It offers functional objects in contemporary style for living room, dining room, alcoves, studio, patio and garden. The project involved 140 communities and the participation of both indigenous and urban artisans.

Artesanias de Colombia, which has been involved for over 30 years in the development of artisanal objects for commercial purposes, has the support of 50 industrial and textile designers, architects, anthropologists, jewelers and silversmiths, ceramicists. It seeks to incorporate efficient production schemes through innovative design, rescue old techniques, discover new materials.

Arañador was chosen, through the office of the International Cooperation of Artesanias de Colombia, from several international designers. He leads a group of over 30 Colombian young designers from a cluster of design units called Laboratorio Colombiano de Diseño para la Artesania y la Pequeña. The design units are in Armenia, Bogota and Pasto, key craft destinations in Colombia.

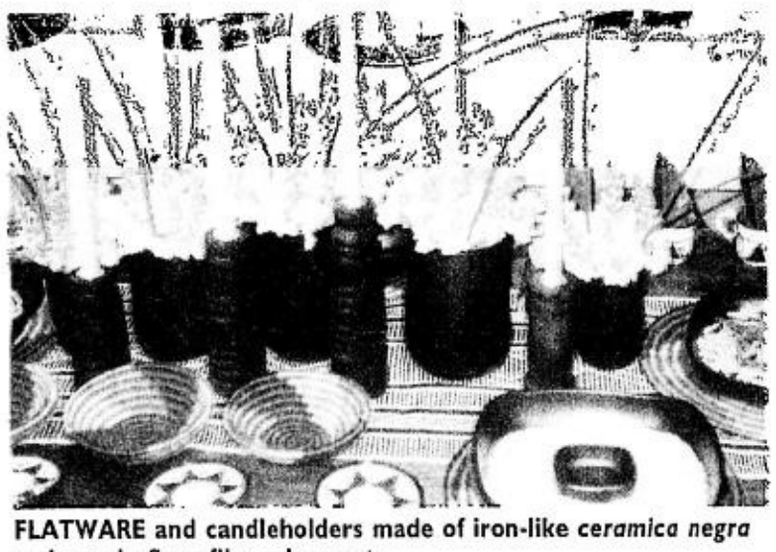
A group of young designers in Arañador's design studio in Manila serve as Philippine counterparts. The designers do the technical drafts and exhibition designs and multimedia presentations in Manila, which are then shipped to Bogota.

The Colombian look was anchored on *casa quinta*, a typical high-style plantation homes in the coffee or banana farms. Items for Casa Colombiana rely on identity, materials, forms, rhythm, textures and colors to achieve a distinctive look. Arañador selected coffee, for which Colombia is famous, as the color signature.

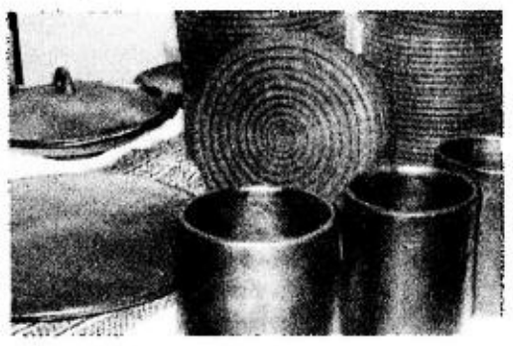
The Casa Colombiana collection at Expotesanias, the largest fair in South America, draws over 200,000 people each year.

Arañador helped put together a book on Colombian crafts, which will be launched in Bogota this month. Former Citem executive director Araceli Pinto-Mansor will attend the book launch.

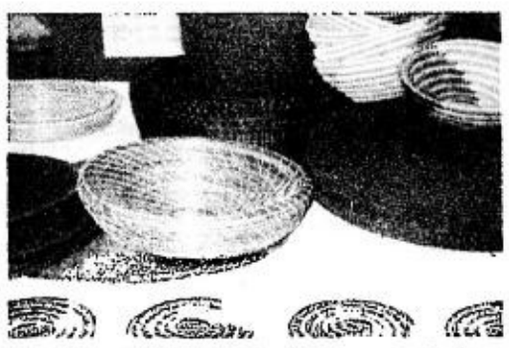
The Filipino designer also conducts seminars and workshops attended by an average of 250 Colombian craftsmen, designers and businessmen twice a year since 2000 at La Plaza de los y la Pequeña Empresa of the Artesanias de Colombia.



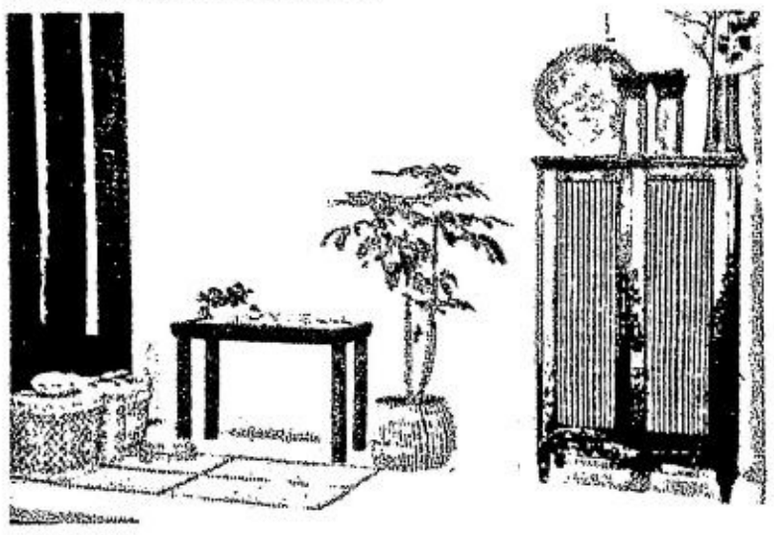
FLATWARE and candleholders made of iron-like *ceramica negra* and purple *figue* fiber placemats



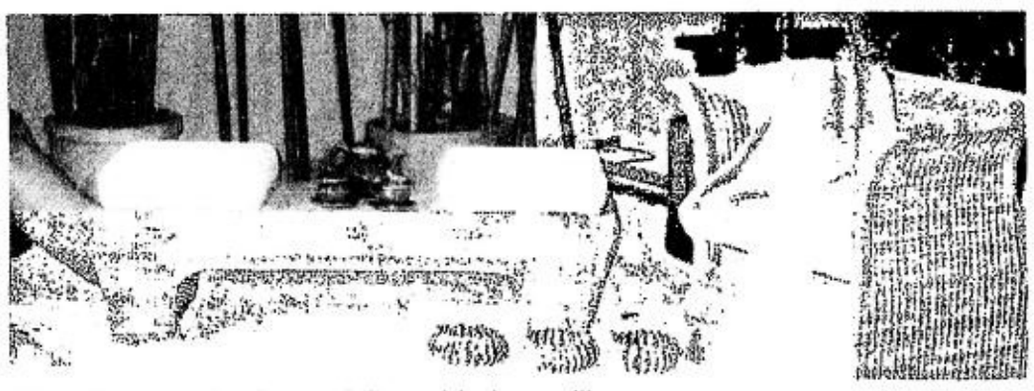
BLACK flatware made of Colombian *ceramica negra*



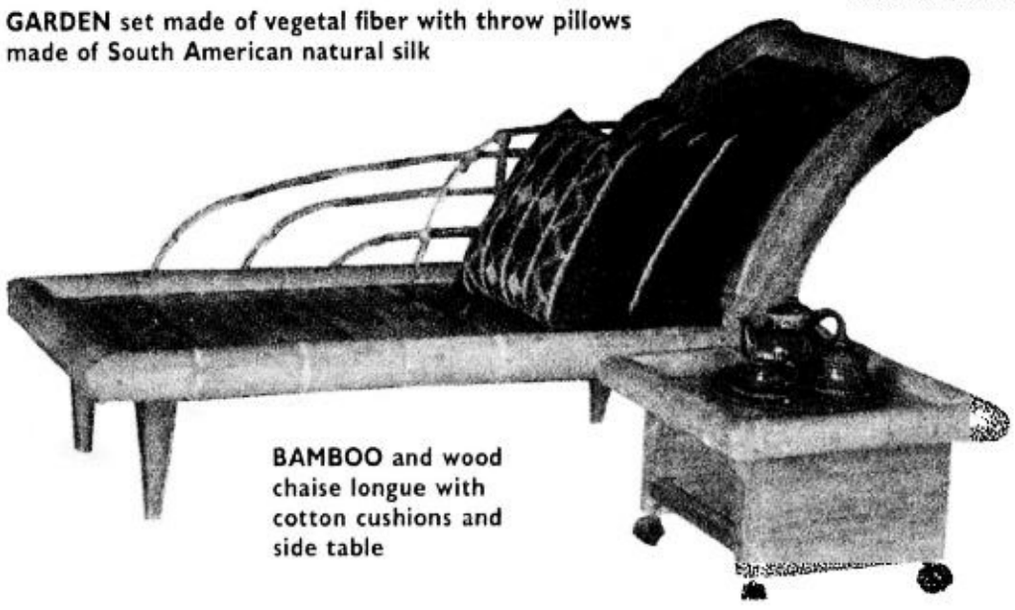
FIGUE and pine-needle fibers are rolled to form baskets in sage colors.



ARMOIRE and complimentary accessories created from waterlily stalks called *junco* fibers



GARDEN set made of vegetal fiber with throw pillows made of South American natural silk



BAMBOO and wood chaise longue with cotton cushions and side table

Live the good life with quality appliances and products

IN ITS many years in business, Abenson has come to know what the Filipino customer wants and needs. Each Abenson store continues to offer the best and widest assortment of products and appliances at the friendliest prices and payment options in town.

Abenson's 50 branches to date live up to this promise of payment ease. Beyond the usual cash or credit card, buyers may avail of either Philacor Easy Financing or FAST (Financing Appliance Service on Time).

Under the installment plan of Philacor, pay only 10 percent of the full price up front with the balance divided into your terms from three months to two years. With FAST, no downpayment is required, and installment can take place for up to 36 months.

You can take advantage of Abenson's zero-percent interest promo with Metrobank credit cards. Until Sept. 15, give yourself and your home a treat and purchase your dream flat-screen TV, DVD player, mini/micro component, cooking range or handycam at absolutely no interest for three, six, nine or 12 months.

Up to Sept. 1, you can get a flat iron for only P8 for every purchase of a selected washing machine or dryer. At Abenson, you get the laundry tools for all your needs, down to ironing time.

Also this September, Abenson ties up with Jollibee so you can have a chance to win JVC components, Samsung DVD players, Sony television sets, LG refrigerators and 16 other appliances to be given away on the grand draw.

Abenson makes affordable furniture available to its patrons by recently opening the 24th showroom of Homeplus, Abenson's competitive line of high-quality modern furniture, on the 4/L Metropoint Mall, Taft Avenue, Manila.

Julia Roberts, 34
Madonna, 43
Sharon Stone, 44
Farrah Fawcett, 55
Raquel Welch, 61
Brad Pitt, 38
Pierce Brosnan, 49
Harrison Ford, 60
Robert Redford, 64
Clint Eastwood, 72

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Tribe of environmental volunteers increasing

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE SPIRIT of volunteerism is alive and well in the Filipino. So, we gathered from the response to this column's report on the "Greening of Katipunan" project in Quezon City. That beautification and greening project has been going on for the past year. Spearheading it are civic-minded residents in cooperation with the schools and business establishments located there. The determination, in which those volunteers undertake their self-assigned tasks despite all sorts of deterrents, has elicited commendations from readers who have written in.

As we are not sure the letter-writers want to be identified, we are using only their initials.

In his heart-warming letter, D.D. takes us back in time to the days not so long ago when Dick Gordon, as mayor of Olongapo City, appealed to concerned people to help the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) clean and beautify Subic. D.D. heeded the call and enlisted as volunteer, not because, he says, he expected to land a job or because his friends had volunteered, too, but because of a feeling—an urge to protect the environment, not just for now but for future generations.

What he had done as volunteer, small though it was, he now considers an honor. It has made him feel like a "*bagong bayani*"—a new breed of hero. And that is reward enough.

Although he was one of those who encoded the names of the SBMA volunteers for the Volunteers Wall erected in honor of these "heroes," his name was not included. Reading between the lines, however, we get the feeling that, as an encoder, he must have omitted his name on purpose. Obviously an idealist, he must have done so out of a sense of propriety.

Today, he writes, Subic is so beautiful; he hopes that those who take over its charge and work there do not make self-interest or selfish pride the motivation for whatever they undertake; that instead, they continue to show who the true Filipinos are—"*na...sa* Subic *nakikita ang katangian ng isang tunay na* (Filipino)."

He would like to share these sentiments with young readers, he says, to show that what the SBMA volunteers had accomplished was something to be proud of.

Sidewalk vendors in Katipunan

Another reader, H.D., herself a resident of Katipunan, states she appreciates the beautification project on that busy avenue and commends the efforts of Annie S. Cruz, the volunteer who sends us progress reports on the project.

Apparently wanting to do her part, H.D. calls attention to the sidewalk vendors, specifically the corn vendors, who line up along the whole stretch of the avenue, obstructing traffic as a result. "We avoid using the one-car lane service road in front of Miriam College," she says, "because every time we pass there we have to wait for cars which stop to buy corn." She wonders why the police or MMDA people do not do anything to relocate the vendors to improve the traffic situation. "I know the vendors need to make a living," she explains, "but not at the expense of everybody else's sanity."

H.D. suggests that the vendors be helped to find a more suitable place to sell their corn or other produce for that would be a big relief to all motorists plying the Katipunan route.

* * *

There is something about volunteering that brings out the best in people. Since I started writing this column several years ago, I've met volunteers for other projects who had one comment in common: "I'm glad to be a volunteer." What is it that brings on this altruism? They don't get any reward, certainly not even pay. Often they must even shell out from their own pocketbooks. But they do it.

What is your own story as volunteer? Write in a brief account by ordinary mail (c/o Lifestyle, PDI) or e-mail (dorisnuyda@yahoo. com).

And do let us know if it's all right to give out your identity.

Entry forms for Kuwentong Kalikasan now available

GOINGS-ON

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corporation is inviting all elementary students to join the ninth RCBC Kuwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan, a short story writing contest on proper care of the environment. Entry forms are available at all RCBC unibank and savings business centers, DepEd offices, and school offices. Students may submit their stories to the nearest RCBC unibank or savings bank. Deadline for submission of entries is on Nov. 23. Call RCBC Corporate Communications Department at 894-9479, 878-3344 or 894-9000 local 2711/2730.

ITALIAN COURSE. The Philippine-Italian Association will offer Italian classes for beginners at the Pia Secretariat, 2/F of Zeta Bldg., 191 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. This is a 40-hour course from Sept. 24-Nov. 28, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-4 p.m. Enrollment is ongoing. Call 815-1310.

FORUM. The Philippine Group of Law Librarians invites librarians to a half-day forum "Global Competitiveness of Filipino Librarians" on Aug. 28, 8 a.m.-12 nn at the National Library Auditorium, T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila. Call 524-9740 or 899-7691 to 96 locals 2002/2006.

ACTIVITY. The Covenant of Grace School celebrates "Buwan ng Wika" this month. Culminating activity will be on Aug. 30, 9 a.m.-12 nn. This year's theme is "Piling-pili, Pinong-pino, Ako ay Pilipino."

PROMO. Anchor Milk, in close partnership with Mercury Drug Corp., College Assurance Plan (CAP) and Kidz Station, presents the "Anchor Brighter Future Raffle Promo." To join, just buy any of the following in Mercury Drug outlets nationwide: Anchor Full Cream Milk Powder, Anchor 1+ Growing Up Milk Powder or Anchor UHT. Simply enclose one box top or tin foil of any Anchor Milk with one corresponding Mercury Drug proof of purchase in an envelope. Drop all accomplished entries in designated drop boxes at all Mercury Drug outlets, CAP and Kidz Station branches nationwide. You can also mail entries to New Zealand Milk (Phils.) Unit 303 Central Business Park, A. Rodriguez Avenue, Manggahan, Pasig City. Promo runs until Sept. 30. Grand draw is on Oct. 31.

CONFERENCE. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Inc. (Ashrae)-Region XIII will be hosting the "Fifth Annual Chapter Regional Conference and Exhibit" at the Manila Midtown Hotel from Sept. 5-8. The event will showcase high-tech heating equipment, refrigerators, air-conditioners, ventilators and pumps. Call 910-2722/2721 or 687-0604.

BEAUTY PAGEANT. The coronation night of the Search for Ms Cavite Councilors League (CCL) highlights the celebration of Cavite Councilor's Week. The beauty pageant will be held on Sept. 6, 6 p.m., at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater, Tagaytay City.

PHOTO WORKSHOP. The Asian mentor series organized by the Society of Portrait Photographers of the Philippines (SPPP) "Basic... and Beyond" resumes at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Sept. 21-22 and 28-29. Call (0917) 399-4437, (0917) 411-8339; fax 801-3786.

FORUM. The Philippine Librarians Association Inc. invites librarians to a half-day forum "New Initiative for the Total Quality Librarians" on Sept. 2, 10 a.m.-12 nn, at SM Megamall Mega Trade Hall B. Call 526-8295 and 931-5864 or fax 851-4322 and 525-0432.

CONTEST. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF) has announced the winners in the Corregidor on-the-spot photo contest. The winners were Alfred Uy Bomping, first place, Zone V Camera Club; Pepito Marcelino, second place, SLR Camera Club; and Vic Virtucio, third place, SLR; 4th to 10th were Rina Falcis; Warren R. Butuin; Vic Virtucio, SLR; Arnulfo Jaucian; Joel San Miguel, Alpha Camera Club; Alexis dela Vega, Framed Shots; and Vic Virtucio, SLR.

FURNITURE SHOW. The ninth Annual National Antiques, Jewelries, Costumes, Oriental and Tribal Arts, Furniture and Furnishing Show back to back with the Garden and Pet Show will be held Sept. 13-Oct. 6 at the Centermall Greenhills Shopping Complex. Call 820-3662, 826-8162/6732.

Macapagal postpones Aug. 30 executions

STORY ON PAGE A2

De Jesus to DepEd

THE CHOICE of President Macapagal-Arroyo to head the Department of Education has accepted her offer.

Edilberto de Jesus, 60, the president of Far Eastern University, will take over the post vacated by Raul Roco starting Sept. 15, a Palace source told the INQUIRER.

Well-regarded as an educator, De Jesus sits on the board of Ateneo de Manila University and the World Wide People Power Foundation. He's also the president of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Dying banned in French town

LE LAVANDOU, France—The mayor of a French Mediterranean town, faced with a cemetery "full to bursting," has banned local residents from dying until he can find somewhere else to

DYING/A6

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, August 24, 2002 ★★ 56 pages 7 6 sections / vol.17 7 no. 257 P15
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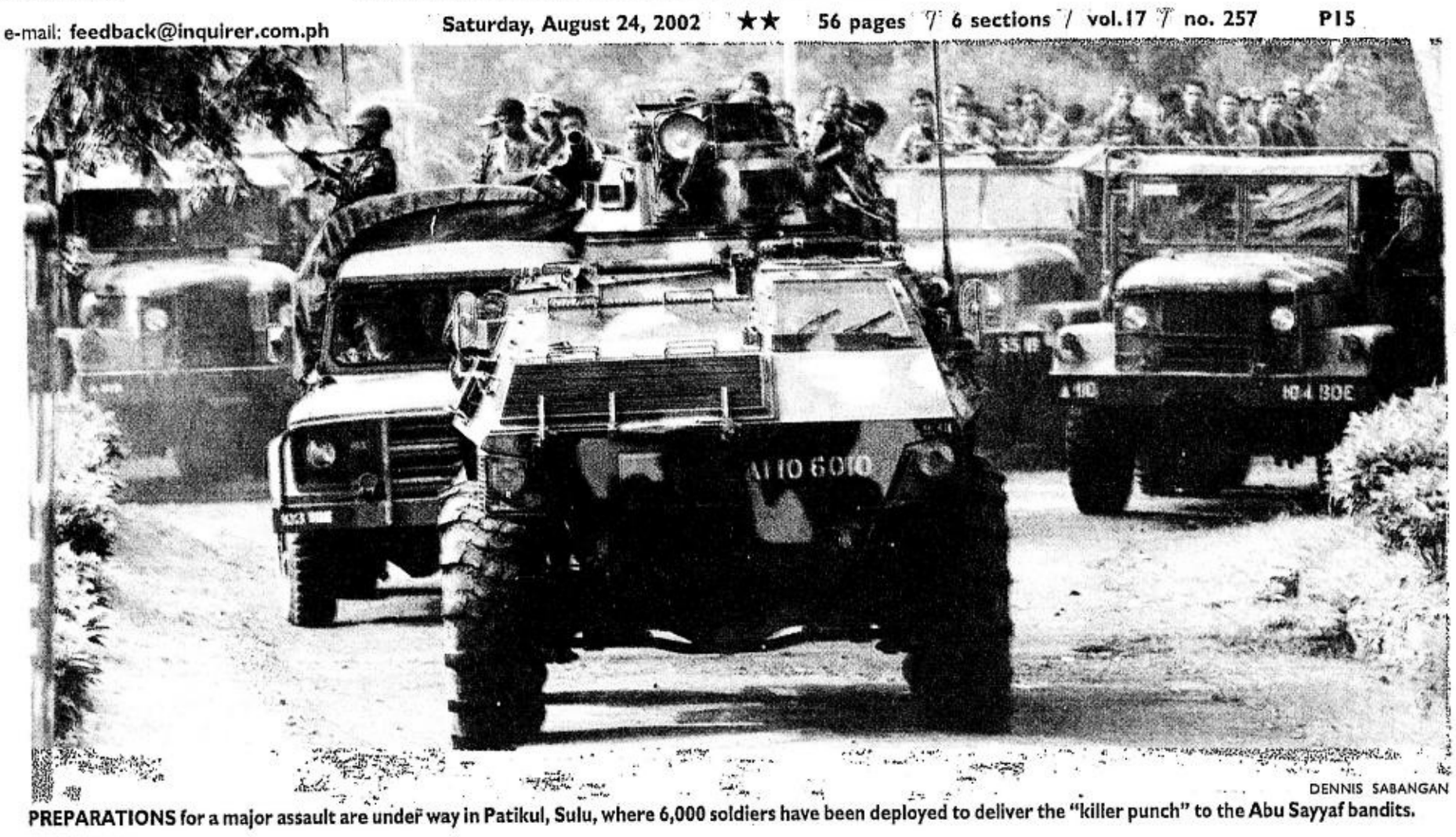

DENNIS SABANGAN

PREPARATIONS for a major assault are under way in Patikul, Sulu, where 6,000 soldiers have been deployed to deliver the "killer punch" to the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Priest dared to show proof Sabaya's alive

By Carlito Pablo, *in Manila*
and Julie Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LET Fr. Cirilo Nacorda produce proof that Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya is alive.

This was the challenge posed yesterday by several government officials a day after the parish priest of Lamitan, Basilan, claimed that Sabaya was alive and was seen in Basilan on several occasions.

"Father Nacorda is free to present Abu Sabaya if he has Abu Sabaya in custody," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

And if other people know where the bandit is, they are likewise free to produce him, he said.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said Nacorda should present proof that Sabaya was

PRIEST/A17

Addicts, not Abus, did it

Kidnappers into drugs, says Reyes

By Carlito Pablo, *in Manila* **and Julie Alipala,** *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE GOVERNMENT is on overdrive to contain the damage caused by the latest kidnapping pulled off by the Abu Sayyaf, the notorious bandit group that was supposedly defanged as a result of the recent six-month RP-US Balikatan 02-1.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes showed up at a press briefing yesterday in Malacañang to say that drug addicts, and not the Abu Sayyaf, abducted six Jehovah's Witnesses in Sulu last Tuesday and later beheaded the two male hostages.

According to Reyes, Abdulmuin Sajiron, leader of the kidnappers who numbered about 14, may be a nephew of the Abu Sayyaf's Radullan Sajiron but this does not automatically make Abdulmuin a member of the bandit group.

"We must remember that we go by the (government's) order of battle," Reyes said. "The nephew of Radullan Sajiron is not in the order of battle."

The defense chief also said Abdulmuin Sajiron was more of a "loose cannon" who was "in all probability . . . into drugs."

"We are not trying to mislead you," he said. "We're just stating facts."

ADDICTS/A16

Abu leader tells of talking peace with Army officers

HAMSIRAJI SALI: Money close to P50 million caused falling out with Janjalani and Abu Sabaya.

By Arlyn de la Cruz
Contributor

ONE of the five Abu Sayyaf leaders wanted by the US government for the kidnap and murder of Martin Burnham met with two officers of the Army Intelligence Service (AIS) "not to surrender" but to offer his help to keep the peace in Basilan.

During a 30-minute phone interview, Hamsiraji Sali alias Commander Jose Ramirez said he met on Aug. 16 with Col. Ralph Villanueva of the AIS and two other Army officers and businessman Muctar Muarip, who's based in the Basilan capital of Isabela.

Claiming that he had a falling out with the other Abu Sayyaf leaders, particularly its chief, Khaddafy Janjalani and spokesperson Abu Sabaya, Sali said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of "maintaining lasting peace" in the province.

An independent source from the Philippine Army confirmed that indeed the meeting, which was held in Kmalarag, Basilan, and arranged by Muarip, took place but stressed that the pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf terrorists continues.

Janjalani, Sabaya, Sali, Isnilon Hapilon and Jainal Antel Sali Jr. (alias Abu Solaiman) are on the wanted list of the Diplomatic Security Service of the US Department of State. For the five men, the US government is offering a reward of up to $5 million for

ABU/A16

Prober probed: Revilla in hot water over Pajero

By Rocky Nazareno

THE INVESTIGATOR is now under investigation.

This was the consequence of Sen. Ramon Revilla's revelation on Thursday that he received a Mitsubishi Pajero from the Department of Public Works and Highways in 1997.

Revilla, chair of the Senate committee on public works, made the admission on Thursday during his committee's investigation of the P139-million auto repair scam at the DPWH.

As a result, the Senate ethics committee will investigate him.

Ethics committee chair Sen. Francis Pangilinan yesterday told the INQUIRER that his committee is waiting for additional information before any investigation of Revilla could be made.

PROBER/A6

Camacho: VAT fraud cost government ₱700M

By Clarissa S. Batino
and Rocky Nazareno

SOME 500 firms cheated the government of P700 million in value-added tax payments (VAT) out of total sales and services amounting to P7 billion.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said this was the latest result of the Bureau of Internal Revenue's ongoing audit of small and medium companies, which began in May.

He said that the audit would likely uncover more tax evasion cases, and that the tax payments of big companies would also be reviewed.

"In effect, we can raise an additional P700 million once these companies pay their liabilities," Camacho said.

He called on other delinquent firms to file for reassessment before they get caught and sued for tax evasion.

"We are serious in this audit and we

CAMACHO/A6

Beltran no fan of Gloria's PPA ad

By Gerald Lacuarta
and Ronnel Domingo

"*MASYADO namang mahangin si Presidente* (The President is full of hot air)."

The Philippine Information Agency's "*Hangin hangin*" television ad featuring President Macapagal-Arroyo and crediting her for reducing the cost of electricity has earned the ire of Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran.

"Truth in advertising, Mrs. President. (You) should not take credit for the power cost reduction when it is actually the product of a strong consumer campaign," Beltran said in a statement.

GLORIA/A15

CHEERS. President Macapagal toasts from left, Henry Sy, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Singaporean Ambassador Jackie Foo, and Lim Chee On, executive chair, Keppel Corp. during the inauguration of Sy's high-end mall, The Podium in Ortigas, Pasig City.

YAL HANDUMON

Ex-nun accuses priest of rape, sues church

LOS ANGELES—A former Filipino nun has sued three Roman Catholic archdioceses, one in the Philippines and two in the United States, accusing them of protecting a Filipino priest who raped her 19 years ago.

Sylvia Martinez Arambulo, originally from the Philippines but now a naturalized US citizen, sued Msgr. Ernesto Villaroya for aggression and rape. She was raped in the Philippines in 1983 and gave birth in 1984 to a son, forcing her to leave her religious order.

She also sued the archdioceses of Los Angeles, San Antonio, Texas and Masbate, Philippines, for fraud and conspiracy, said her lawyer, George Goldberg.

In the lawsuit filed on Aug. 8 at the Los Angeles court at Van Nuys, Arambulo states that the church concealed Villaroya's movements to prevent him from having to face her charges.

EX-NUN/A15

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/24/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

GMA postpones Aug. 30 executions

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has postponed the resumption of executions of convicted criminals on Aug. 30 as a birthday present for Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

Convicted rapist Rolando Pagdayawon, whose execution by lethal injection is set for Aug. 30, has been given a reprieve.

Pagdayawon's execution would be carried out at a later date "but definitely within the year," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye said the postponement was "very likely" in deference to the Cardinal's birthday on Aug. 31.

But he said the President was still intent on implementing the Death Penalty Law and carrying out the executions.

Sin, who turns 74, continues to support Ms Macapagal despite the growing dissatisfaction with her rule of some of her Edsa 2 allies.

She risks losing the Church hierarchy's support if she insists on proceeding with the state executions, 23 of which are scheduled between Aug. 30 and Jan. 8 next year.

The Church is fiercely opposed to the death penalty.

Bunye would not confirm reports that preacher Mike Velarde, the leader of the El Shaddai charismatic sect, had asked the President to postpone the execution during his birthday party earlier this week.

PRESIDENT Macapagal's move was "very likely" in deference to Cardinal Sin's birthday on Aug. 31. VAL HANDUMON

Two other convicted rapists are scheduled for lethal injection on Sept. 20 and Oct. 16.

Ms Macapagal, who was previously opposed to capital punishment, reversed herself last February.

She promised the Chinese-Filipino community, perennial kidnap-for-ransom victims, that she would carry out the execution of convicted kidnappers to put a stop to the spate of kidnappings.

A few months later, she said she would also carry out the execution of convicted drug traffickers.

Last month, in keeping with her vision of a "strong republic," she said she would implement all state executions.

She said she would make an example of the first three death convicts before she rethinks her decision.

Most of those in Death Row have been convicted of rape.

Malacañang was apparently not persuaded by the appeal of some 100 House representatives for a moratorium on executions until Congress can act on the bills seeking the repeal of the Death Penalty Law.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, who made the written appeal to the President, said yesterday she was of two minds about allowing herself to witness the execution of death convicts.

An anti-death penalty advocate, Rosales last week denounced the Bureau of Corrections' invitation to the Aug. 30 execution and has since received two more invitations to witness the execution of two other convicts set for next month.

The Akbayan party list representative said she has been getting suggestions from various sectors that she should consider going as she would then get the chance to make a strong public statement against the death penalty.

"I don't want to go but I have my responsibility to continue with the anti-death penalty campaign, even if it means attending an execution," she said.

Rosales said she would consult the members of the House committee on civil, political and human rights, which she chairs, on whether or not she should go, whether her witnessing an execution "would advance their cause." ***With a report from Christine Herrera***

Amnesty Int'l asks Gloria to stop judicial executions

MANILA—The Amnesty International human rights group has called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare a moratorium on the death penalty before the next judicial execution is carried out next week.

The group urged the President to grant clemency to three men, all convicted of raping their daughters, who are scheduled to be executed in the next three months, starting on Aug. 30.

Amnesty said the death penalty did not curb crime and warned that there were "serious flaws in the criminal justice system including the use of torture or ill-treatment to coerce confessions," which could lead to the execution of innocent people.

It also criticized certain practices in the Philippines such as denying suspects access to lawyers for prolonged periods and having suspects "paraded in front of media as criminals before they have been tried in court."

"Such abuses are in clear contravention of international human rights standards," the group said.

Ms Macapagal has in recent weeks been parading arrested suspects in kidnapping, drug-pushing and corruption cases before the television cameras in a show of being tough against crime.

Meanwhile, the papal nuncio, Antonio Franco, the Vatican envoy and dean of the diplomatic corps, has explained that the Church is opposed to the death penalty because "it is against God's will."

"The Church is against violence and arbitrary suppression of a human life. The Church professes (that) the civil state can do other means to protect the well-being of society without suppressing the right (to) life," he said.

"The Church is pushing for understanding the right to life. Only God can dispose over the life and death of a person," said Franco who led guests at the inauguration of a school building of the Our Lady of the Pillar College in Barangay San Fermin, Cauayan, Isabela last Wednesday. ***AFP and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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Palace anti-graft body orders Roco to answer raps

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Anti-Graft Commission has directed former Education Secretary Raul Roco to answer a graft complaint brought against him by DepEd employees, saying it had found "sufficient basis" to start an administrative investigation.

The PAGC order was dated Aug. 22 and was sent to Roco's La Vista residence in Quezon City yesterday.

The DepEd Central Office employees union accused Roco of committing graft for allowing a DepEd driver assigned to him to be used as a personal driver of his wife; for failing to deposit with the National Treasury service fee funds amounting to between P14 million and P15 million a month during the period April to June 2002; and for hiring 31 consultants in violation of Section 81 of the Government Accounting and Auditing Manual (GAAM) and Commission on Audit Circular 86-255, among other charges.

PAGC chair Dario Rama gave Roco "a non-extendable period of 10 days" from receipt of the order to file with the PAGC his "counter-affidavit or verified answer" together with the "affidavit(s) of his witnesses and other documents in his defense."

Rama said the commission would not accept any motion to dismiss or motion for bill of particulars that Roco might file.

Failure to answer within that period would be considered a waiver on the part of Roco to respond to the charges or present evidence on his behalf, Rama's order said.

He set the preliminary conference for Sept. 10, at 10 a.m. at the PAGC office.

Roco, who resigned in protest against President Macapagal-Arroyo's endorsing the complaint to the PAGC without informing him, has said he did not recognize Rama's authority to investigate him.

Rama said that even if Roco has resigned, he was still liable to be investigated administratively.

He said he would proceed with the investigation as was his duty.

He reiterated his position that the investigation was not politically motivated, and was just a routine matter.

He said Roco should not feel that he was being singled out.

"If you are an honest man, a thousand cases filed against you will not matter," said Rama.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo had not talked to him since his appointment and oath-taking as PAGC chair on Feb. 28.

"There were just seven words that she had uttered to me then—'Thank you, chairman, for accepting the job,'" Rama recalled.

He said Roco, being a public official, should not be too sensitive.

"If you're a public official, your life is an open book," he said.

"No man is above the law and no man is below it, nor do we ask any one's permission when we require him to obey it," he said, quoting from the late United States President Theodore Roosevelt. He said this was the PAGC's guide post.

Roco has claimed that Rama had acted improperly in airing over radio the details of the graft complaint against him.

Rama answered that "people (had) called us about it. Under the Constitution, we cannot refuse to tell them."

He said there have been many cases against government officials brought before the PAGC. About 85 percent to 90 percent of these cases have been dismissed for lack of evidence, he said.

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P1.128-B a day for debt service in 2003—Recto

SEN. Ralph Recto has sounded the alarm over the country's debt service payments, which he claims to amount to P1.128 billion a day and expected to hit P411.5 billion next year.

The P223.3 billion allocated for debt servicing in the government's proposed 2003 national budget was for interest payments only, said Recto who chairs the Senate's ways and means committee.

He said another P188.2 billion has been earmarked for principal amortization.

"That means we are going to cough up P1.128 billion a day for debt service in 2003 or almost P47 million per hour," Recto said.

"By the time the nation finishes watching an early evening telenovela, the Treasury has been emptied of P47 million for debt service," he said.

Recto said principal payments were deemed off-budget items and were thus not included in next year's proposed budget.

"That's the tyranny of it. Both principal and interest payments are undeletable items in the budget. They're off-limits to congressional examination," he said. ***Cynthia D. Balana***

GMA writes off P18-Bdebts of co-ops

DESPITE the ballooning budget deficit, President Macapagal-Arroyo has decided to condone P18 billion worth of debts owed to the government by 119 rural electrical cooperatives (EC).

The debt write-off would reduce power rates for six million households serviced by these ECs, Ms Macapagal said.

The President said she would be issuing soon an executive order for the restructuring of the ECs, which would include the condonation of rural electrification loans incurred as of June 26, 2001.

Ms Macapagal's 10-point program to reduce electricity rates includes the strengthening of the ECs and the takeover of inefficient ones such as those in Aklan and Basilan provinces. ***Dona Pazzibugan***

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7 QC execs charged for Manor Hotel fire

By Volt Contreras

IT has taken a year but criminal charges have finally been filed against the Quezon City government officials found liable for the Manor Hotel fire that killed 74 people on Aug. 18, 2001.

Acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio yesterday said he had ordered the indictment of seven officials of the QC building, engineering and business permit offices before the Sandiganbayan and the QC regional trial court.

Ordered charged were Alfredo Macapugay, Romeo Militante Montellana, Gerardo Villaseñor, Rodel Mesa, Romualdo Santos, Donato Rivera and Severino Mariano.

The information cites Macapugay, the then city engineer, and Montellana for six counts of graft for failing to conduct an annual fire safety inspection of Manor Hotel and impose sanctions against its negligent management.

Similar graft charges are to be filed against the other respondents who, because of their failure to implement the country's fire and building codes, gave "unwarranted benefit, undue preference and advantage" to Manor's owners, Gervacio said.

Jose de Jesus, spokesperson for the anti-graft agency, said a three-member panel led by senior graft investigator Hilario Favila had recommended the filing of charges last April.

Gervacio approved the panel's recommendation on Aug. 9.

De Jesus said the cases would be filed either at the Sandiganbayan or Quezon City RTC depending on the individual rank and salary grade of the respondents.

Seven other city hall officials who were also investigated were cleared of liability because of lack of evidence. They were: Carlito Romero, Ricardo Lemence, Julius Villanueva, Patricio Dumlao, Winston Angeles, Luis Sol Jr. and Ernesto Madrillejo.

The Ombudsman's office suspended up to 24 Quezon City officials during its preliminary investigation of the case.

The dawn fire gutted the Manor Hotel on Kamias Road. Many of the hotel guests who were killed were members of a Christian fellowship group that was conducting a series of meetings that week at the Araneta Coliseum.

The victims, most of whom had come from the provinces, died from suffocation rather than burns.

REP. Satur Ocampo and wife Carolina Malay appear before a regional trial court in Makati City. ERIK AAZAS

Satur, wife refuse to enter any plea

By Leila B. Salaverria

BAYAN Muna Party List Rep. Satur Ocampo and wife Carolina "Bobbie" Malay did not enter any plea during their arraignment yesterday for illegal possession of firearms.

Judge Rebecca Mariano of the Makati Regional Trial Court's Branch 136 denied a motion to dismiss the 13-year-old case. The court entered a not guilty plea for the accused.

Next hearing was set for Aug. 30.

Lawyer Rommel Quizon of the Public Interest Law Center said both government lawyers and defense counsels—including former Rep. Wigberto Tañada, Arno Sanidad and Romeo Capulong—had met with Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who assured Ocampo that the case would be dismissed.

The charges were initially filed in 1989, following a search of the couple's Makati apartment by the defunct Constabulary Security Group.

Ocampo maintained that the two pistols found had been planted. The Court of Appeals upheld an RTC ruling that the search was illegal, and the case was archived.

The former spokesperson of the National Democratic Front, earlier said the case had been revived to harass his Party List group.

BID runs out of funds; phone lines disconnected

By Blanche Rivera

OPERATIONS at the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation were paralyzed yesterday after phone lines at its main office were disconnected due to unpaid bills totaling around P600,000.

Communication from the BID main office to sub-ports and airports all over the country was practically severed after the 12 lines, including those in the office of Commissioner Andrea Domingo, were cut off by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

The lines each had a back account of more than P20,000 (phones with smaller bills were not disconnected). Elsa Acio of the general services division said she did not think the BID could pay up anytime soon.

Also on account of unpaid bills, the bureau is bracing for water and power supply interruptions, according to acting chief Elvira Presado of BID's finance and management division.

Presado said the BID owed Meralco about P1.2 million, for just two months. The water and electric bills totaled P11 million last year, she added.

As of this month, the BID had used up the entire year's P58 million budget for maintenance and operating expenses (MOE), Presado said. Which, she added, explained why the BID had also run out of funds for the food supply of foreign detainees in Bicutan.

Presado said Malacañang had slashed the BID's 2002 budget to P220 million, or about half of the previous year's. This was broken down into P160 million for personnel compensation, P58 million for MOE, and only P100,000 for equipment outlay.

Under the Department of Budget and Management's new policy, only three-fourths of the total appropriation would be released until September; the remaining one fourth should be earmarked for use in the last quarter.

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New int'l airport 97% complete; senators soften stance on Piatco

By Rocky Nazareno

WITH the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 virtually complete and set to open Nov. 26, senators critical of the project are now inclined to just renegotiate the deal with the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. Inc. (Piatco) instead of rescinding the whole contract.

"It is for the good of all that we renegotiate this contract," said Senate Blue Ribbon committee chair Joker Arroyo after yesterday's hearing on the Piatco deal.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, who earlier filed a resolution calling for the Senate probe, said it would better serve the government's interest to renegotiate the contract.

"We should be practical," Angara said. "Since it is almost complete, we should let it open but seek better terms".

In yesterday's hearing, Piatco officials distributed photographs and other information on NAIA 3, which is now 97 percent complete.

The terminal would have 118 check-in, 40 immigration, 20 customs counters and 20 gates. It would be able to service 13 million passengers annually, more than double the six million that NAIA 1 currently processes.

Piatco vice-president for internal affairs Moises Tolentino said his company was open to renegotiations but not on the contract's financial aspects, "because we are obligated to our own creditors." He hoped the government would present "reasonable terms."

During the hearing, former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay, representing the MIAA-NAIA Association of Service Operators (Maso), charged that former Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez had unduly favored Piatco when he approved additional amendments to the build-operate-transfer contract.

Yasay maintained that the Amendments and Restated Concession Agreements (Arca) was not examined by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), and gave Piatco a "virtual sovereign guarantee" on the project.

While he also expressed willingness to renegotiate the Piatco deal, opposition Sen. Sergio Osmena III underscored that the government should "move to rescind" the Arca provisions on government guarantee which, he said, "changed the terms of the whole contract".

Tolentino said Yasay's claims were a "rehash of old issues" previously raised before the Ombudsman, House of Representatives and NEDA.

The Piatco official also pointed out that Yasay lied to the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee when he (Yasay) claimed that he did not attend the House hearing on the controversy.

"Sen. Arroyo (even) reminded Mr. Yasay that he had attended a hearing held in the Lower House," Tolentino said.

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GLX Gas M/T	645,000	79,000	25,639	18,211	12,644	322,500	26,875	17,917	13,436	9,685	7,726	6,713
Diesel M/T	670,000	84,000	26,633	18,917	13,134	335,000	27,917	18,611	13,958	10,126	8,080	7,019
GLS Gas	705,000	66,000	28,024	19,905	13,820	352,500	29,375	19,583	14,688	9,792	7,695	6,853
Diesel	720,000	69,000	28,620	20,329	14,114	360,000	30,000	20,000	15,000	10,000	8,107	7,037
GLS Sport Gas	698,000	121,600	27,746	19,707	13,683	349,000	30,029	20,611	16,481	11,706	9,340	8,124
Sport Diesel	713,000	119,600	28,342	20,131	13,977	356,500	30,265	20,772	16,615	11,801	9,416	8,188
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	115,000	29,813	21,176	14,702	375,000	31,250	21,191	16,961	12,047	9,612	8,356
Gas A/T	790,000	123,000	31,403	22,305	15,486	395,000	32,917	22,435	17,955	12,753	10,175	8,846
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	114,000	30,608	21,740	15,094	385,000	32,083	21,389	17,219	12,230	9,758	8,482
SS Gas M/T-Limited Edition	760,000	122,000	30,210	21,456	14,898	380,000	31,667	21,807	17,448	12,393	9,888	8,598
SS Gas A/T-Limited Edition	800,000	130,000	31,800	22,587	15,682	400,000	33,333	23,051	18,442	13,099	10,451	9,088
SS Diesel-Limited Edition	765,000	128,000	30,409	21,599	14,996	382,500	31,875	22,268	17,811	12,651	10,094	8,778
LANCER												
GLX M/T	620,000	109,000	24,645	17,505	12,154	310,000	26,761	18,368	14,687	10,432	8,323	7,239
GLS M/T	695,000	124,000	27,627	19,623	13,624	347,500	30,160	20,700	16,550	11,755	9,379	8,156
A/T (INVECS II)	725,000	140,000	28,819	20,470	14,212	362,500	32,408	22,243	17,773	12,624	10,072	8,764
MX (INVECS II)	805,000	136,000	31,999	22,728	15,780	402,500	34,256	23,512	18,805	13,357	10,657	9,268
STRADA												
Standard Model	994,000	150,000	39,512	28,065	19,456	497,000	43,264	29,695	23,739	16,862	13,454	11,703
ENDEAVOR XT												
Standard Model	715,000	100,000	28,422	20,187	14,016	357,500	31,121	21,360	17,076	12,129	9,677	8,418
Special Edition	725,000	125,000	28,819	20,470	14,212	362,500	31,556	21,658	17,315	12,298	9,813	8,535

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1533 Series of 2002

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

AN INDONESIAN policeman stands guard in front of the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta Thursday. Indonesian militants are holding continued protests calling for the release of Agus Dwikarna who is in jail in Manila. AP

Jailed Indon militant denies terrorist links

INDONESIAN Islamic militant Agus Dwikarna asked a lower court yesterday to set aside his 17-year jail sentence for explosives possession, arguing that the Philippine police had fabricated evidence.

Reading a statement at the regional trial court, Dwikarna said: "I am not a terrorist.

"I know nothing about the Jemaah Islamiya or al-Qaida and their activities," he said, referring to two groups of militants who police allege were plotting to stage terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia.

The Indonesian claimed Philippine authorities had set him up to be arrested for possession of C-4 plastic explosives, which the authorities said they seized from his baggage at a Manila airport in March.

The court found him guilty on the explosives charge in July. Two Indonesians arrested with him, Abdul Jamal Balfas and Tamsil Linrung, were later released as authorities found they had not enough evidence to charge them.

A lawyer for Dwikarna pointed out alleged inconsistencies in the government's case.

Judge Henrick Gingoyon told AFP that government lawyers swiftly filed a legal comment opposing Dwikarna's motion.

Both defense and prosecution will have 10 days each to submit additional comments, Gingoyon said, expressing optimism he would be able to issue a verdict within a month.

During their brief stay in the Philippines, Dwikarna and his colleagues were alleged to have met with associates of another Indonesian, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, who is now serving a 12-year jail sentence here, also for illegal possession of explosives.

Al-Ghozi is an alleged explosives expert of the radical Muslim group Jemaah Islamiya, which Asian governments say has links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. He was arrested in Manila in January.

Philippine officials allege that Dwikarna had also been implicated in bombing attacks that claimed over a dozen lives in Manila in December 2000 and in a bomb attack on the Philippine embassy in Indonesia in the same year.

Government sources say the Philippines has been under political pressure to free Dwikarna as Islamic militants in Indonesia have voiced protests.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople has suggested the two countries seal a prisoner-swap accord that would allow Dwikarna to serve the rest of his sentence in Indonesia.

However Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said a swap can only take place once the court verdict becomes final.

Dwikarna admitted he was a member of the Lakas Jundullah, an Indonesian group and was a member of a committee preparing to impose Islamic law in South Sulawesi but said this "does not mean that I am a fundamentalist or a terrorist." He alleged there was a campaign to brand him a terrorist. *AFP*

Suspected kidnappers kill Marine, 3 others in Cotabato

By Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Four persons, including a Marine officer, were killed as fresh violence rocked this city on Thursday night.

Mayor Muslimen Sema said suspected kidnap-for-ransom gang members strafed two Marines assigned to a checkpoint in front of the Cotabato City Institute along busy Quezon Avenue.

Marine Private Reniel Navida of Pangasinan died on the spot.

Senior inspector Banarin Kamaong, chief of Police Station 1, said Navida and Marine Corporal Edgar Nilo of the 8th Marine Battalion Landing Team were inspecting a heavily tinted L-300 van when one of its passengers fired a shot.

After Navida fell, others inside the van also opened fire and seriously wounded Nilo, Kamaong said.

The van, which was exiting the city, quickly sped in the direction of Sultan Kudarat town via Quezon Bridge, with the gunmen firing at other Marine officers that had rushed to secure the checkpoint.

Three bystanders were killed by stray bullets: Merla Guillermo, 26, a casual employee of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao; Annalea Melchor, a salesgirl of Midsayap, Cotabato; and a certain Nas Isla of Cotabato City.

Wounded were Armando Samson of Cotabato City, Larry Crisostomo of Pigcawayan, Joel Lachica of Libungan, Cotabato and Jabar Lugoy of Barangay Alamada, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

The civilians had all been waiting for a ride near the checkpoint.

Recovered at the scene were hundreds of empty shells for M-16 Armalite rifles and a .38 revolver.

Task Force Cotabato operatives pursued the van, but failed to catch up with the assailants.

Sema theorized that the van could have also been carrying contraband or illegal drugs.

The attack was the fourth incidence of violence in the city since Tuesday, when a village leader was shot and seriously wounded.

A few days later, during a firefight between two warring families, a policeman was killed and five others wounded.

"This is very alarming," Sema said of the latest incident, adding that he had convened the city peace and order council to assess the current situation.

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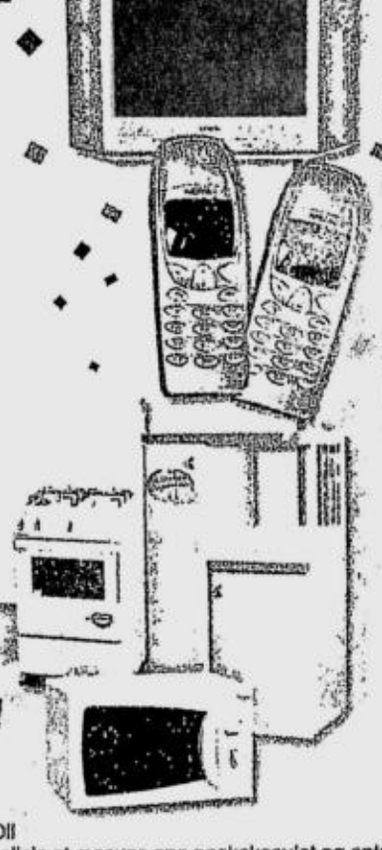
ESTELITA C. CASIA
ng 367 Banyan St., Hillcrest Vill., Novaliches, CALOOCAN CITY



Abangan ang Second Preliminary Draw at baka kayo naman ang manalo ng computer showcase, gas range at cellphones!

Napakadaling Manalo!
Isulat ang pangalan, address at telephone number sa kapirasong papel at pirmahan. Ilagay sa puting envelop at ilakip ang Marca Leon Vegetable Oil o Marca Leon Corn Oil LABELS (etiketa) o TIN CAP (takip ng lata) NA MAY PROMO STICKER. Dapat malinis at maayos ang pagkakasulat ng entries.

Ang mga sumusunod na BILANG at SUKAT ng LABELS ay maaring ilakip sa envelope bilang ENTRY.

GROUP A
ISANG (1) PIRASO ng alinman sa sumusunod:
• 1 gallon VEGETABLE/CORN OIL LABEL
• 1/2 gallon VEGETABLE/CORN OIL LABEL
• 2 Liters CORN OIL LABEL
• 3 Liters CORN OIL LABEL
• 4 Liters CORN OIL LABEL
• 1 gallon VEG. OIL TIN CAP (TAKIP ng LATA)
• 1/2 gallon VEG. OIL TIN CAP (TAKIP ng LATA)

GROUP B
DALAWANG (2) PIRASO ng alinman sa sumusunod:
• QUART (800 gms) VEGETABLE/CORN OIL LABELS
• 1 Liter PET (910 gms) VEGETABLE/CORN OIL LABELS

GROUP C
LIMANG (5) PIRASO ng alinman sa sumusunod:
• PINT (380 gms) VEGETABLE/CORN OIL LABELS
• 500 ml PET bottle VEGETABLE OIL LABELS
• 320 ml PET bottle VEGETABLE OIL LABELS
• 250 ml VEGETABLE OIL DURAPACK

GROUP D
KOMBINASYON ng sumusunod:
• ISANG (1) PIRASONG LABEL mula sa GROUP B
+ TATLONG (3) PIRASONG LABEL o DURAPACK mula sa GROUP C

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Ang paghulog o pagpapadala ng entries ay hanggang sa mga sumusunod na takdang petsa lamang:

DRAW DATE	DEADLINE:
(2nd) Second Preliminary Draw (October 18, 2002)	October 8, 2002 (Provincial) October 12, 2002 (Mega Manila)
(3rd) Third Preliminary Draw (November 29, 2002)	November 19, 2002 (Provincial) November 23, 2002 (Mega Manila)
Grand Draw (January 17, 2003)	January 7, 2003 (Provincial) January 10, 2003 (Mega Manila)

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3rd Prize - Teen's Showcase
ERENEO AGUILAR
Biñan, Laguna

CONSOLATION PRIZES
4th Prize - Kid's Showcase
VIVIAN DEQUENIO
Las Piñas, City
5th Prize - Sofa Bed
THELMA SALAZAR
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6th Prize - Single Bed
CATALINA ALDABO
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7th Prize
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Asian Spirit
THE PEOPLE'S AIRLINE

Prober probed: Revilla in hot water over Pajero

From page A1

REVILLA

Pangilinan and Revilla are both members of the Senate ruling coalition.

It was earlier reported that one of 150 vehicles unaccounted for at the DPWH, a Mitsubishi Pajero with license plates PGP-586, was traced to the office of Revilla.

A Senate source said a complaint was being prepared and would be filed with the Senate committee on ethics next week.

"Some senators are wary that this could set a bad precedent while compromising the independence of the Senate as an institution," the source said.

In a press conference Thursday, Revilla admitted that the Pajero was issued to his office by the DPWH eight years ago.

He said he used the sports utility vehicle in his frequent inspection trips to far-flung and mountainous areas where the DPWH has projects.

"But that Pajero is already old. Besides, all the repairs, maintenance and even gasoline were paid by me and not the DPWH," Revilla said.

Revilla is heading the investigation of several public works officials linked to the more than 7,000 cases of anomalous vehicle repairs.

The repairs, which included the replacement of one vehicle's windshield three times in two months and the purchase of five spare tires for one car alone, cost the department a total of P139 million.

An internal auditor of the DPWH had described the anomalies as "shocking."

Lacson liable for perjury–Ombudsman

ACTING Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr., acting on a recommendation by the Ombudsman's Fact-Finding and Intelligence Bureau, yesterday directed the National Bureau of Investigation to formalize the criminal complaints it filed against opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Gervacio said FFIB investigator Maria Olivia Elena Roxas "agreed with the NBI that Senator Lacson may be held liable for two counts of perjury" for his failure to disclose a United States bank account in his 1996 statement of asset and liabilities and all his business interests in his 2001 SAL.

Roxas also found Lacson liable for four counts of violation of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for government officials "for his failure to file his SAL for 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2000."

But Gervacio did not approve Roxas' recommendation to also charge Lacson with graft.

Jose de Jesus, spokesperson for the Ombudsman, said the latter recommendation was dropped because the law cited by Roxas on that issue had been superseded by the code of conduct.

De Jesus clarified that no preliminary investigation could be made on the Lacson cases until the NBI formalizes its complaint under oath.

What the NBI sent last week were merely reports of its investigators on Lacson's undisclosed assets with a cover letter to Gervacio by NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco, he said.

In a press statement, Lacson said he "concurred" with the acting ombudsman's decision "to return the case to the NBI to be formalized" but doubted that Wycoco had "the competence to substantiate the details of the US bank accounts . . . knowing that the US has very strict bank secrecy laws."

Volt Contreras

GERVACIO

LACSON

VAT fraud cost gov't ₱700M–Camacho

From page A1

CAMACHO chides business leaders for advocating tax boycott.

are hoping that it will encourage those who have not volunteered to come out and pay the appropriate taxes," Camacho said.

When she visited the BIR on Aug. 1 on the occasion of its 98th anniversary, President Macapagal-Arroyo brought with her a team of lawyers from the Department of Justice to help the bureau file cases against the small and medium firms found to have evaded taxes.

Last month, the BIR said 312 companies in Valenzuela, Manila and Quezon Cities were found to have under-declared their VAT payments by P4 billion—the equivalent of P400 million in losses for the government.

The BIR discloses the identities of delinquent companies only after it has filed charges and padlocked their offices, as it has done to Susana Mart in San Jose, Bulacan, and New San Agustin Oil Co. in Malabon City.

Tax boycott

Camacho chided some business leaders, including Raul T. Concepcion, chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries, for advocating a tax boycott following the discovery of a P432-million tax diversion scam in the Binangonan branch of the Land Bank of the President.

The BIR and Landbank had earlier discovered that the payments of seven big taxpayers were cleared, deposited and subsequently withdrawn from four fictitious accounts.

But the finance secretary said: "I think it was irresponsible to encourage people not to pay their taxes."

He said the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo had been pushing for reforms in the BIR.

Poor tax collection, which resigned Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez blamed on supposed efforts of BIR employees to sabotage the reforms, has pushed the government's budget deficit to P133 billion as of July.

The figure already exceeds this year's target of P130 billion.

Lower tax for cars

Also in an effort to increase revenue collection, the Senate committee on ways and means is preparing to recommend lower taxes for all types of cars, Asian utility vehicles (AUVs) and light commercial vehicles (LCVs).

Committee chair Sen. Ralph Recto said the recommendation would "focus on shifting the base of excise tax on the sale price instead of on fuel type and engine displacement."

"The 20-year-old motor vehicle taxation scheme has proven ineffective in collecting more taxes," Recto noted.

He said the old scheme "raised tax avoidance by encouraging manufacturers and buyers to go around the law."

The senator cited one such "loophole" that importers of sports utility vehicles (SUVs) had been taking advantage of. He said these importers were merely adding jump seats in order to qualify for the tax exemption intended for AUVs and other vehicles with a seating capacity of seven or more.

The motor vehicle market saw increasing sales that were tax-exempt under the current scheme from around 40 percent of vehicles sold from 1995 to 1997 to 68 percent as of the first quarter of this year.

While AUV production rose from 10 percent in 1997 to 30 percent in the first quarter of this year, the government did not benefit from this growth.

Recto said the excise tax revenues as a percentage of automobile sales had been declining from a high of 9.4 percent in 1997 to 6.7 percent in 2000.

He said the committee on ways and means expected the amendments to raise P2.5-3 billion in additional revenue by creating a bigger market and encouraging tax compliance.

These are the rates of the proposed sales-price-based tax:

- AUVs, LCVs and pickups worth P600,000 and below—5 percent.
- Passenger cars worth P600,000 and below—5 percent.
- All vehicle types worth more than P600,000—10 percent.
- All vehicle types worth more than P1-2 million—15 percent.
- All vehicle types worth more than P2 million—20 percent.

Dying banned in French town

From page A1

bury them.

Gil Bernardi, mayor of Le Lavandou on the coast 15 miles west of Saint Tropez, introduced the ban after a court rejected his plans to build a cemetery in a tranquil setting by the sea.

Bernardi said most locals had obeyed the edict so far, but he was desperately trying to find a resting place for a homeless man who had recently died in the town.

"Initially, the decree has been remarkably well followed," the mayor said. Bernardi has appealed against the ruling preventing the seaside cemetery being built, saying it would be the best final resting place for his townsfolk.

"What people want here, because it's a local tradition, is their own little personal plot of land, their burial spot, not an impersonal pigeonhole," he said.

The mayor did not say what penalty awaits violators of the decree. Death penalty, perhaps?

Reuters

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COL. Joe Rogers: He led fly-by squadron during the declaration of Philippine Independence on July 4, 1946.

Rogers, pioneer Air Force, PAL pilot dies at 88

PIONEER fighter pilot of the Philippine Air Force, Col. (ret.) Joe M. Rogers died on Aug. 22, 2002. He was 88.

He led the fly-by squadron during Independence Day rites on July 4, 1946. "Borrowed" by Philippine Air Lines in 1946 to fly its C-47 and C-54 passenger and cargo planes, both domestic and international, Rogers became one of the first PAL pilots. Rogers joined PAL on temporary duty to assist in opening new airports throughout the country.

He met his wife, the theater luminary, Naty Crame-Rogers, on a PAL plane. Ms Rogers was one of the first batch of 11 PAL stewardesses. When they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1997, PAL acknowledged the Rogers' pioneering work for the airline by gifting the couple with round-trip tickets to Paris.

A Philippine Air Force Aviation Cadet Class '41, he was a liaison pilot for General Jonathan Wainwright and received the USAFFE Bronze Medal Award. After World War II, he was assigned to set up the Basa Fighter Air Base in San Fernando, Pampanga. He became a military diplomat as the Philippine Military Adviser's representative to the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (Seato in Bangkok, Thailand from 1968 to 1970). On his return, he was named Commander of the Heavy Airlift Wing Division of the PAF before he retired in 1970.

During retirement, Rogers followed his wife's lead and was active in theater activities in Teatro Pilipino headed by Rolando Tinio, the Philippine Drama Company headed by his wife who's a Cultural Center Centennial Awardee, the UST Graduate School Academic Theater and the St. Scholastica's Children and Teachers Theater. He was a volunteer and resource person for Children's Peace Education activities about World War II and was moderator of a philatelic club.

His body lies at the Don Bosco Chapel in Makati City. Interment date will be announced later.

THE DAILY

Saturday, August 24, 2002
Bartholomew, Apostle

1st Reading: **Rev 21:9-14**

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one that Moses wrote about in the Law, and the prophets as well: he is Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

Nathanael replied, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, he said of him, "Here comes an Israelite, a true one; there is nothing false in him." Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?" And Jesus said to him, "Before Philip called you, you were under the fig tree and I saw you."

Nathanael answered, "Master, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" But Jesus replied, "You believe because I said: 'I saw you under the fig tree.' But you will see greater things than that.

"Truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Commentary

Tradition has identified the Johannine Nathanael with the Synoptic Bartholomew. He was one of the first disciples of Jesus. He was puzzled that Jesus seemed to know him already—and also have a high opinion of him. "Before Philip called you," Jesus said, "I saw you under the fig tree."

Palestine is a scorching, hot country, and people often had a fig tree growing at the door of their house. Besides fruit it offered shade in the heat. It would be a place to sit and be quiet. It may be that Nathanael had been praying under the fig tree when Jesus spotted him earlier. "Behold an Israelite in whom there is no guile!" Jesus had said. Our faces, it may be, are never so transparent as when we are praying.

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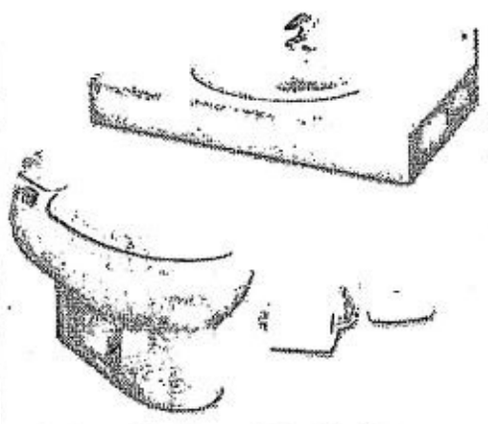

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- artificial marble counter (MC210)
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P 22,800 *white color*
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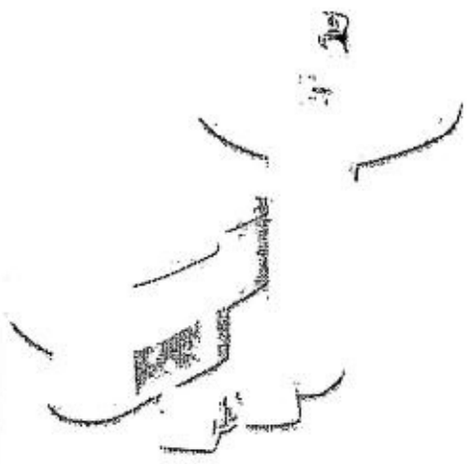

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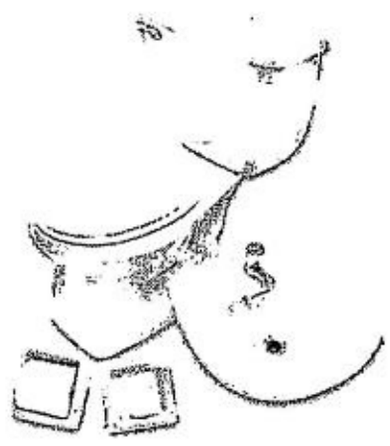

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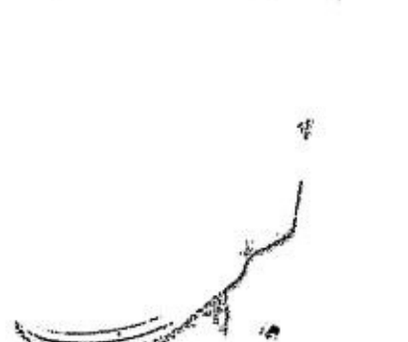

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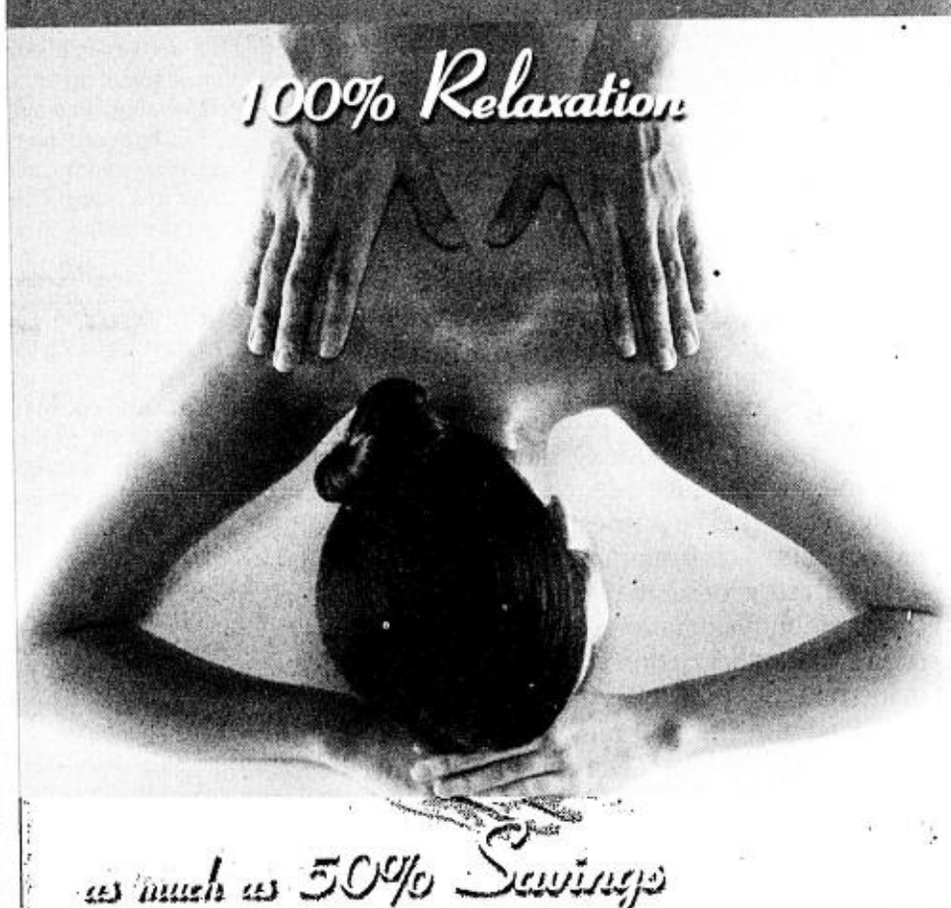

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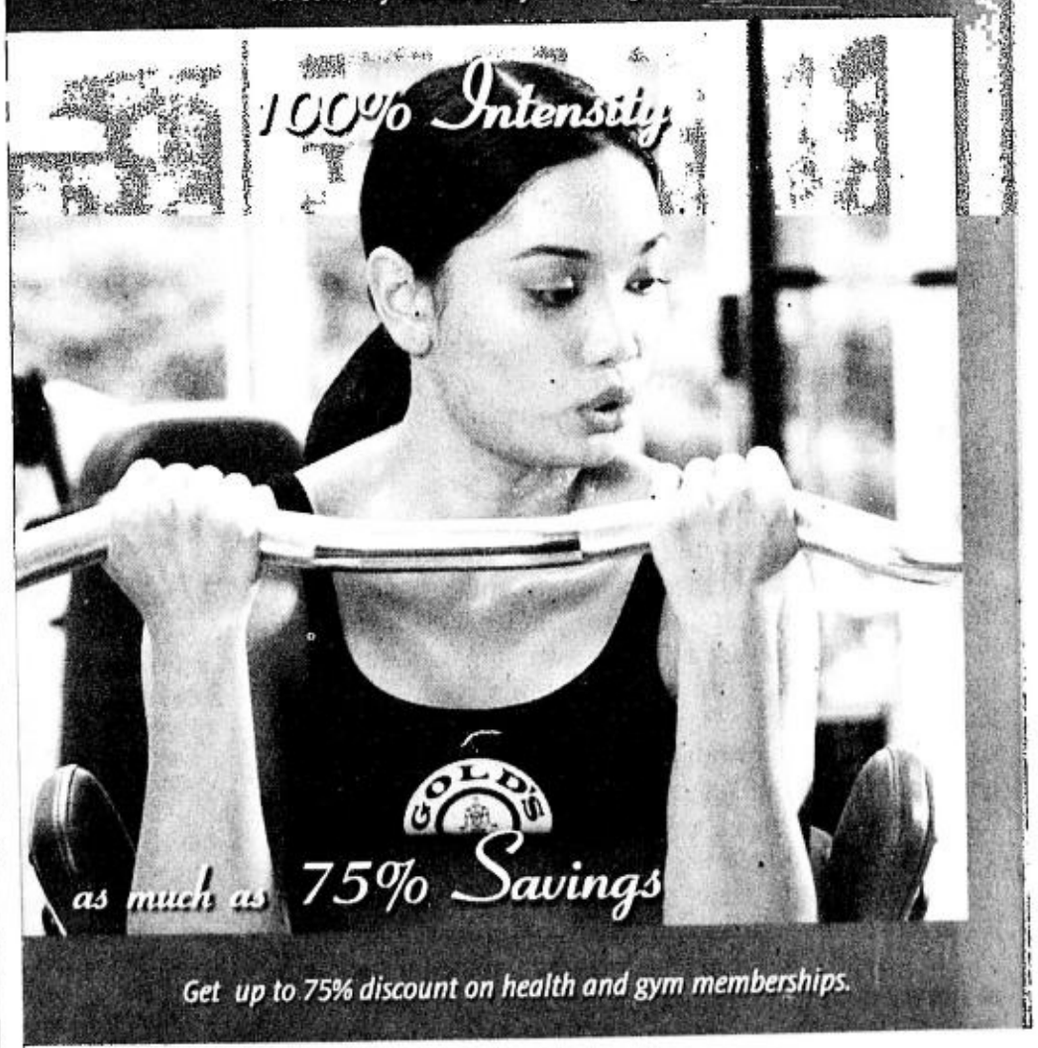

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Founding Chairman

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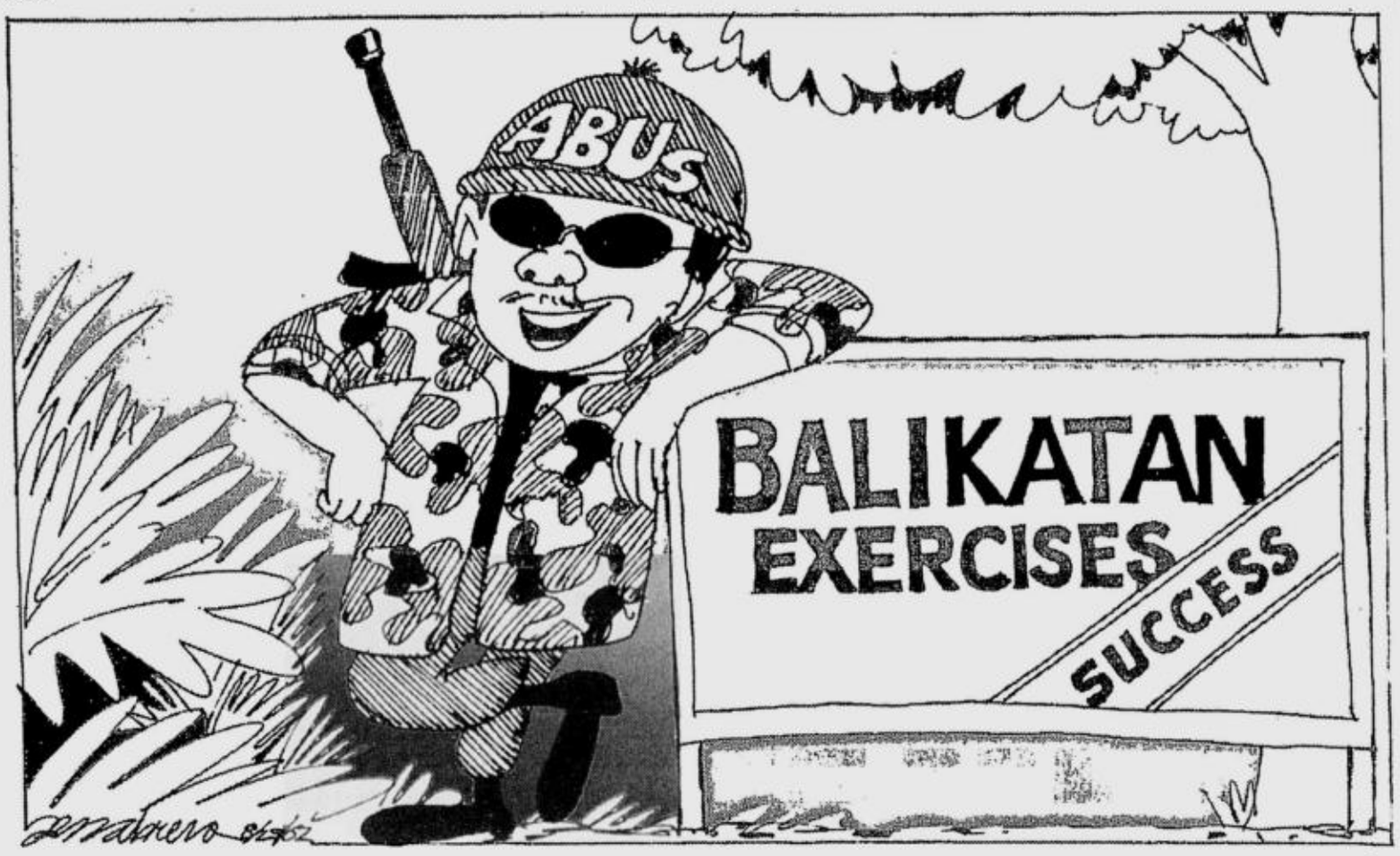


An incredible tale

THE IRREPRESSIBLE Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, the parish priest of St. Peter's Church in Lamitan, Basilan, has come up with the startling yarn that the renegade Abu Sabaya is alive and well.

Nacorda made his revelation not from the pulpit in his church but before the Manila Rotary Club where the message, contradicting the official version of the death of Sabaya, could be exponentially magnified and get exposure in the national media. He said he had no malice in making his revelation and was "simply telling the truth."

EDITORIAL

There is no reason to doubt Nacorda's disclaimer that he speaks without malice, but a close examination of his statement at the Rotary Club and to the INQUIRER raises questions as to whose "truth" he is catering to. Nacorda, who has a knack for provoking controversy, especially with the military in Mindanao, said villagers had told him that Sabaya had been sighted after he was officially reported dead following an encounter off the coast of Zamboanga del Norte last June 21 with Filipino special forces hunting him and his band. Indeed, according to Nacorda, his sources (whom he refused to identify) told him that Sabaya was seen celebrating his survival, the day following the announcement of his death. Nacorda said he trusted his source.

The first major flaw of his tale is not only that he does not name his source but also that he accepts his source's statement on blind trust. This is not the first time after Sabaya's announced death that reports have circulated that he is alive. But what the priest is in effect saying is that his tale is based on nothing more substantial than hearsay—and not on hard evidence.

The religious may take a priest's statement and credibility at face value—as a matter of faith—but in secular affairs, clerics' assertions have to undergo the same rigorous test of credibility demanded of the non-religious.

Nacorda's statements contradict sharply the conclusions made by Philippine and American authorities that Sabaya is dead and that the remaining members of the Abu Sayyaf are on the run. The basis for the official conclusion on Sabaya's death consists of eyewitness accounts of soldiers and captured Abu Sayyaf members. But the more visible evidence is the videotape taken by high-tech aerial surveillance instruments showing a close-up of the sea encounter and Sabaya falling into the sea after he was shot by pursuing troops. An intensive search of the area in the following days failed to produce bodies. But one plausible explanation offered for this is that Sabaya and cohorts could have been devoured by sharks.

While it is true that there is a gap in the official version of the event and that there is no incontrovertible evidence of Sabaya's death, Nacorda's tale is even less credible. If skeptics who doubt the official version demand more concrete and credible proof—i.e., the corpus delicti—then his tale should be subjected to the same rigorous test. It is now a matter of which is more credible, Nacorda's story or the official version.

It strikes us as curious, however, that if Sabaya had escaped death, he has not surfaced to mock the official claim. Sabaya was a flamboyant character and it would have been out of character for him to keep a low profile after the June encounter. His immediate reappearance after the announcement of his death could have been a devastating propaganda coup for the Abu Sayyaf, demonstrating its invincibility even against advanced military technology and American military aid in the Balikatan exercises in Basilan. And Sabaya could have counted on Radio Mindanao to broadcast his announcement and proclaim his triumph in the face of superior forces.

Sabaya's prolonged silence speaks volumes about his fate. There is little doubt that the remnants and die-hard followers of the Abu Sayyaf would not miss the opportunity to spread tales of Sabaya's survival to foster the myth of indestructibility. Hearsay magnified helps inflate this myth.

This context could explain why the remnants of the Abu Sayyaf have struck again, this time in Jolo, and abducted six members of Jehovah's Witnesses. The hostage-taking, highlighted by the beheading of two hostages, is their way of announcing to the world that their number has not been decimated, contrary to the government's claim. And they are still as merciless and blood-thirsty as ever.

The medical malpractice bill

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE HOUSE of Representatives is currently studying a medical malpractice bill that was originally filed in 1992 and has now been revived by some congressmen who claim to have suffered adverse medical experiences to justify its passage.

Only recently, one of them declared on television that he had undergone surgery for the removal of his gallstones, which turned out to be one solitary gallstone about the size of a mongo bean. Worse, the operation caused serious collateral damage to his health, including intense body pain that required his prolonged confinement in the hospital. He says the hospital and its doctors impliedly admitted their fault and negligence in his treatment by not charging him a single centavo for their services.

Reacting to many similar reports of alleged medical malpractice, Dr. Ma. Dominga Padilla sent me a copy of House Bill No. 4955 "punishing the malpractice of any medical practitioner in the Philippines," including physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, paramedical or other supporting personnel like medical and dental technicians, nursing assistants and therapists.

She also enclosed a copy of the official position of the Philippine Medical Association against the measure and her own article challenging the legality and practicability of the bill, which she says ought to be rejected. Dr. Padilla is the founder and president of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines, an officer of the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology, and a member of the Philippine College of Surgeons of the PMA.

Supporters of the bill cite the present relative helplessness of the public against the malpractices of the medical and allied professions, particularly their clannish tendency to protect one another from the charges made against them by outsiders, i.e. their patients. Unlike in other cultures, we do not place much value on the oath, which is blithely disregarded even by doctors when testifying in favor of their colleagues in malpractice suits.

The critics invoke a number of constitutional provisions against the bill, among them the equal protection clause that should apply (but does not) to other professionals, the due process clause in view of the vagueness in the definition of certain terms like "malpractice" itself, and the right against double jeopardy insofar as it might subject the accused to prosecution under the bill and also the Revised Penal Code.

These allegations are not easily accepted because they require the lawyer's analysis, not the doctor's. They are not as easily understood, with all their legal exceptions and complications, as the cure of the common cold or the removal of a wart. The equal protection clause, for example, does not call for its universal application because not all subjects of the law are similarly situated. What that clause requires is equality among equals.

But I do agree completely with the doctors that one provision of the medical malpractice bill is clearly unconstitutional. This is the penalty clause, which provides that "medical malpractice and the practice of illegal surgery shall be punished by *prision mayor* and the cancellation of the license to practice the medical profession and a fine ranging from P500,000 to P1,000,000 in the discretion of the court."

I have no quarrel with *prision mayor*, which ranges from six years and one day to 12 years, but the fine is another matter. The language of the bill is conjunctive, not disjunctive, which means it must be imposed in every case.

Section 20 of the Bill of Rights clearly and expressly provides that "excessive fines shall not be imposed." Even at the current peso exchange rate, the amount of from P500,000 to P1,000,000 cannot be considered peanuts; it is unquestionably excessive by any standard. Moreover, the due process clause requires an equivalence between the offense and the penalty, unlike under the bill in question, where the fine can be as high as a million pesos. It is like punishing jaywalking with life imprisonment.

With all its present inadequacies, the only effect of the bill, if passed, will be to require medical and other allied professionals to take medical insurance for their own protection. They will also require the patient to undergo all kinds of tests, some of them unnecessary, to avoid errors in diagnosing and treating the ailment, if any. The cost of all these precautions will be charged, of course, to the patient.

It was so different before, when the General Practitioner was a jack-of-all trades and could tell the patient's illness by simply feeling his pulse and examining his tongue. But we're in a different age today, where our lives depend on what the computers tell the doctors, who must obey to avoid malpractice suits and even criminal prosecution. Better to be safe than sorry.

"The realities of death and suffering are things that medical practitioners have to face almost daily," says Dr. Padilla in assailing the bill. "And just as we know that it is our duty to do our best to alleviate suffering and save lives, we also humbly acknowledge that there is only so much our best can achieve. And when these failures come, we agonize. We are but human although forced to play God. It is a great privilege but an even greater burden."

Coincidence or conspiracy?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

DIRECTOR Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation has a point when he says that the public should focus on the efforts to find out who are behind the scheme that successfully siphoned off P431 million of revenue collections that were supposedly paid through the LandBank. After all, if it can happen to one bank, it can happen to the others, such as the DBP and PNB for large tax payments, and the many banks which receive tax payments from the rest of us.

As I recall, this is not the first time that tax payments coursed through the banks did not reach the Bureau of Internal Revenue. But it is certainly the largest haul so far, and we still do not know if this is just the tip of the iceberg. Neither do we know whether the crime was strictly an inside job among LandBank employees, or whether there was connivance with employees of the large taxpayers (LTs) involved as well as the BIR. The only thing we know for sure is that the BIR didn't learn any lessons from previous incidents—not enough anyway to prevent their reoccurrence.

One of the aspects of the crime which has to be looked into is why the nine LTs involved—Dow Chemical, GMA Marketing, Honda, Lorenzo Shipping, Matsushita, Nissan Motors, Filipino Macro, Pru-merican Life and Sunisetsu Construction—seem not to have been alarmed when they did not get any confirmation receipts from the BIR for the payments they made through the LandBank.

Gilda Pico, executive vice president of the LandBank, gives me to understand that aside from the validated "official receipts" issued by accredited banks to the large taxpayers, the BIR also sends them confirmation receipts within one or two months after they make their tax payments. One presumes that these confirmation receipts are the confirmation to the LTs that their payments have indeed been received by the BIR. Your guess is as good as mine as to why it takes that long for the BIR to acknowledge receipt.

Pico knows about those confirmation receipts because the LandBank itself is one of the 1,200 or so entities classified by the BIR as an LT. And she says that it is standard operating procedure (SOP) for the bank to follow up with the BIR if the confirmation receipt is not received at the time it is expected.

Yet, none of the nine above-named corporations seem to have taken the time or the effort to check with the BIR when they failed to get confirmation receipts for their tax payments. Was this failure a collective oversight?

Of course, it could be that they did call up the BIR, and were assured that it was in the mail, but this is an unlikely scenario, since the scam took place over a period of 14 months. Surely even the most laid-back of corporations would have suspected something amiss. At the very least, they should explain why they did not follow what should obviously be SOP.

BIR officials, too, have a lot of explaining to do about their own errors of omission. It seems that before the LTs can make tax payments (which must be done by the 10th or the 25th of the month) through the accredited banks, they must first stop by the Large Taxpayers Unit (LTU) at the BIR to have their tax returns validated and stamped. Only after the LTU has validated and stamped their tax returns do the LTs proceed to one of the three accredited banks (located right in front of the LTU office) to make their payments.

It turns out, however, that the LTU does not keep a log of the validated returns—so it really has no record, no paper trail, that could be compared subsequently with the list of payments made by the LTs. Any difference in the two lists would have, at the very least, served as a warning that something may be amiss and could have triggered a query from the BIR to the LT as to why it had its tax returns validated but failed to make expected payments.

There is yet another apparent omission by the BIR which it needs to explain. The LTs usually make monthly payments to the BIR, so that if in any month, the expected payment has not been received (called a "stop-file"—which, I presume, means that the taxpayer stopped filing returns), this should trigger an immediate query on the part of the BIR, either to the accredited bank the LT uses, or the LT itself. By doing this, any diversion would be detected on time.

However, in the LandBank case, where some tax payments of the nine LTs were diverted over a 14-month period, the BIR made a query about the stop-files only after that period. Interestingly, the BIR claims that it was its query (dated June 13) that alerted the LandBank about a possible scam. The LandBank, however, does not seem to have received such letter, and when it asked the BIR to provide it another copy, the BIR said it could not do so because the only copy it made was the original—which it sent to, but was not received by, the Land Bank.

It would seem therefore, that it was a common cavalier attitude toward their respective responsibilities by the large taxpayers (not following up on confirmation receipts), the BIR (no logbook of validated returns, not inquiring about "stop-files" for 14 months, no copy of the query), and the LandBank (not reporting suspicious large transactions) that allowed P431 million to be stolen from the government.

Coincidence? Or conspiracy?

Why not bring back Chato to BIR?

SOCIAL Security System president Corazon de la Paz is said to be hesitant about accepting the Bureau of Internal Revenue post, which is understandable, given the problems there. De la Paz should stay in the SSS where she has done a creditable job, and why not bring back to the BIR instead former Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato? She did well as far as meeting the collection targets during the five years she was there (during the two years she failed, it was because the targets were increased toward the end of the year). She was also able to work well with the BIR employees but at the same time she instituted a number of reforms.

One problem, though, is that Lucio Tan might object, given that Chato slapped him with a P25-billion tax evasion case, of which she claims P7.9 billion is immediately collectible because the decision on that amount was final and executory.

* * *

At the recent birthday celebration of movie king Fernando Poe Jr. at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center suite of former President Joseph Estrada, the latter reportedly endorsed his *kumpadre* for president in 2004 in the presence of Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Reports said the three later closeted themselves to discuss matters that have to do with 2004. Apparently, there is strong pressure for FPJ to run, with Lacson as his running mate. The story is that in the event the ticket wins, FPJ will step down eventually to allow Lacson to take over—after pardoning his *kumpadre* or allowing him to leave the country.

This can easily qualify as the nightmare scenario for 2004, but apparently there are groups planning it. I note that some vehicles are now sporting Lacson stickers with his face on them. Reports from the Visayas and Mindanao indicate that he is spending a lot of his Senate funds on infrastructure for the police, such as police headquarters in various municipalities.

* * *

I also heard reports that FPJ has enrolled or plans to enroll in a seminar on political governance, to help prepare him for 2004. I checked this out with the UP's National College of Public

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Administration and Governance (NCPAG), but dean Maricon Alfiler said FPJ was not their student nor has he indicated a desire to become one. If you recall, actress Vilma Santos, before she became Lipa mayor, took a one-week crash course on local governance at the NCPAG's Center for Local and Regional Governance. Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista finished his master's degree in public administration there and is currently doing doctoral studies.

* * *

I also checked the FPJ report with the Ateneo School of Government in Makati under dean Dina Abad. It was there where actor Rudy Fernandez and his wife Lorna Tolentino took a one-week executive education program in governance, which Alma Moreno also took when she was contemplating running for husband Joey Marquez's post. Program directress Gemma Cunanan said there was no indication of FPJ signing up for Ateneo's short courses. But who knows, she says, FPJ might show up in one of their "customized" courses, which are tailor-made for individuals and groups with special needs, such as "managing a winning political campaign."

Two other institutions also offer courses on governance—the Development Academy of the Philippines and the Asian Institute of Management—but I still have to check out the FPJ report with them.

* * *

Nothing could be more embarrassing for a journalist than to identify someone who is very much alive as dead. In last Thursday's column, I said that Camiguin Rep. Jurdin Jesus Romualdo's father, "the late Gov. Pedro Romualdo," was Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez's former colleague in the 1971 Constitutional Convention. That morning, Governor Romualdo contacted me by phone, joking that "this is not his ghost but the governor himself, in flesh and blood." I was profuse in my apologies, mumbling about how I had to rush that column right after Alvarez's confirmation at the Senate, and that I had never made such a mistake before. Romualdo, 65, graciously said he understood my predicament, but begged, "Kindly add life to my years, not deduct from them."

* * *

Romualdo's call gave me a chance to find out how Camiguin has fared since the devastating floods of two years ago, and he said, "See for yourself. Come to the October lanzones festival on Oct. 17-24." The governor, who is now planting more lanzones and other fruit-bearing trees, said the Spanish government's Cooperacion Española Internacional has been helping Camiguin a lot. He will join the President's party on her coming state visit to Spain. Talking about Alvarez, he stressed, "If I were still in Congress and a member of the CA, I would have voted for him, too."

* * *

On Oct. 20, 2002, just two weeks after the canonization of Blessed Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei, Pope John Paul II will beatify Mother Mary of the Passion, the foundress of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, the first missionary institute for religious women, which runs the Stella Maris schools in Cubao and Oroquieta City, the Lumen Christi Catechetical Center in Cubao, St. Joseph's Academy in Sariaya and other institutions. The congregation that Mary of the Passion founded in 1877 has flourished in Asia, the Pacific Islands, America, Europe and parts of Africa. To celebrate her beatification, Journeys of Faith Inc., a special travel agency run by Arlina Onglao, has organized a pilgrimage to retrace the holy woman's footsteps from her birthplace in Nantes, France, to Toulouse where she first joined the religious life, to Rome where she is buried. Call Arlina at 929-0155, 426-0601 or her cellphone 0917-8148127.

Nowhere Man

"If I could ask God just one question, why aren't you here?"
—Lines from the song, "Someday We'll Know," by Mandy Moore

DEAR Uncle Fely,

Hi! How is life? I bet you are doing good. It has been a long time. Yes, it has really been a very long time.

I was initially hesitant to write this letter because I thought I might disturb you. You've been dead for three years. You're not suffering anymore. Why then am I communicating with you?

YOUNG BLOOD

Eric de Quiros

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

The answer is simple. I need help! You're probably my last chance because I've been living in hell for the past 12 years. The nightmares have not ceased torturing and maiming the inner recesses of my soul. I have given up on myself, my dreams, my hopes and my aspirations. My existence is a shattered mirror reflecting the kind of wreck I am.

I have never denied the fact that I have always been a troubled and problematic person—even before I suffered a brain stroke. I have always been very serious and frightened of practically everything.

From childhood to adolescence until the age of 17, I was very pessimistic. No, I will never forget the number 17. I will also never forget that day when I became an abomination.

It lingers in my mind. I recall the family praying the rosary. We were reciting "Our Father." Suddenly, no words were coming out of my mouth. I tried vainly to speak, but something was gagging my lips. I tried to rise but it felt as if the world was upon my shoulders. I stumbled and fell, like a boxer who had been hit by a vicious uppercut.

After I was brought to the hospital, I underwent numerous tests. After these, the doctors told me that I had a stroke. They explained that a blood vessel had burst in my brain.

A few weeks passed, and I could speak and move my hands again. I was allowed to go home and it felt like everything was back to normal.

That feeling was wrong. It was dead wrong.

I was thinking thoughts which I had never thought before. I was overreacting so much more than I did. I was anticipating things that went against common sense. I could not sleep. I could not eat. I could not distinguish between what was real and what was a figment of my imagination. Excessive fear, worry, nervousness, stress, reduced me to a walking zombie.

I groped for answers but my efforts only resulted in more questions. There was no light at the end of the dark tunnel of my misery. I was alone. I was discouraged. I was dejected. I was shipwrecked in the land of desolation.

It was not until I met Dr. Brigido Carandang, a neurologist at the UERM, that I learned the real reason for my weird and unexplained behavior. He explained that my stroke occurred at the hypothalamus, the emotional center of the brain. He said every brain has a filtering system to control a person's thoughts. He said the filtering system of my brain was damaged by the stroke. And because the stroke occurred in my hypothalamus, I was expected to overreact and overanticipate approximately 100,000 times more than the average person.

According to Dr. Carandang, I was a one in a million individual. He said my case was very, very rare.

Since then, I have been wandering aimlessly without direction—a nowhere man.

Uncle, I need you to guide me. I trusted you fully and that trust has never waned. I ask you to be with me, if not physically, at least spiritually. I don't even want to mention the word "spiritual" because my tragedy has destroyed my belief that there is a God. I have sunk into the quicksand of oblivion and time has run out. The jaws of defeat have crushed me and nothing matters anymore.

I request one more thing. Please enlighten my parents. Tell them not to shout when I make mistakes. Mommy said she would help me. I wish she would. How I really wish she would.

Uncle, I'm now ending this letter. Thank you for taking time out to listen. Will I see you someday?

Eric

Eric de Quiros, 28, works as a clerk at the Employees Compensation Commission.

We've come a long way?

"LET'S go out tonight. Group of women going to Conways to fight for our rights against chauvinism and discrimination!"

The text message's source was an unfamiliar phone number, but it piqued my interest just the same. "What's the story behind Conways?" I asked.

"Women without men escorts not allowed in!" my correspondent, a friend of mine, texted back.

Later that evening, she called me from Shangri-La Makati. "Rina, a group of us women are here, and there is a sign that says 'All unescorted ladies will not be allowed to enter,'" my friend said. "We're waiting for more women to come, to see if they'll let us in!"

When I talked to her some days later, my friend said that a guard at the entrance of Conways at first barred their group, pointing to the sign. When they insisted, the guard said they'd have to talk to the manager. The woman manager was pleasant enough, saying the hotel had no such policy (despite the all-too visible sign) and after giving them the once-over, let the women enter and asked two receptionists to escort them to their table. When one of them asked for an extra chair because she was expecting her husband, the receptionist haughtily asked: "Are you sure you have a husband?"

At this point, my friend spotted a male friend, "a fixture of Makati night life," seated nearby. She approached the group.

At this, the lady manager materialized and, without any effort at discretion, asked the man, "Mr. ____, can you vouch for your friend here?"

Last I heard, my friend was trying to expand her text brigade and get more women to storm the doors of Conways.

* * *

I DIDN'T know whether to chuckle or seethe when I heard my friend's story. I was no longer shocked or incensed because I'd gone through the same experience more than 20 years ago though in another hotel. But that such a hidebound policy would still be in force in the new millennium—well, who said women have come a long way, baby?

When I first wrote about being turned away from a bar in the Manila Peninsula with five

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

female friends in search of a night cap, the hotel's PR manager called my editor and remonstrated that I should have called her up and told her we planned to drink at the bar that night. In reply, I said I had no ill feelings about the Pen but that would be the last time I would ever spend my own money on its facilities. (Not that I can afford it now.)

I do understand that the Pen's and the Shang's discriminatory policy is their way of "protecting" their male guests from supposedly unwanted solicitation from high-class hookers. But as my friend heatedly asked: "What about male prostitutes? Aren't they going after the male (and female) customers, too?"

And what about female hotel guests? In this day and age, a woman traveling on business or pleasure by her lonesome is no longer unusual. Would she, too, be barred from hotel outlets?

What I find most objectionable is that, in the hotel management's view, the presence of a "male escort" is enough to validate the existence of a woman or a group of women. But what if the woman was in fact a sex-for-hire girl and was in the bar with her john? That makes her "legitimate," then? And what if the man among a group of women is actually their pimp?

So give it up, Makati Shang. Your policy is not only discriminatory, it is also laughable and pointless. Welcome to the new millennium, where women are actually considered people.

* * *

STILL on hotel row, Dusit Hotel Nikko general manager Chiyuki Fujimoto, who was accused of attempted rape and sexual harassment by a therapist of the Clark Hatch Fitness Center, turned the tables on his victim in his reply to the Makati prosecutor.

Fujimoto and his lawyer asked that the complaint be dismissed, arguing that the complainant "has the reprehensible propensity of filing totally baseless and unfounded charges against her foreigner customers." He also went on to diss her in other ways.

In a statement, Makalaya, a labor center for women workers lending the victim moral and legal support, assailed Fujimoto's tactic, saying his assertions against "Miss R," "show the double standard that the male-dominated hospitality industry uses against complaints (of) a sexual nature." "Miss R," the group said, "is not on trial here. Whether she had relationships with 10 men (or women) without the benefit of marriage, and had 10 children as a result, is not relevant to the case." (I don't know if Makalaya was merely being sarcastic, or if Fujimoto indeed played up Miss R's sexual history.)

"Literature and cases involving sexual harassment almost always revolve around destroying the credibility of the woman or asserting that the woman was the one provoking the harassment as a defense," notes Makalaya. "We are not surprised if the tack taken by Fujimoto is following the same route."

"Miss R," I've been told, has found working in the hotel untenable and has since resigned, though she is still pursuing the case.

* * *

A RESPECTED and credible entertainment columnist, in his columns on the Kris Aquino-Joey Marquez-Alma Moreno story, professes not to know what to call Kris, dubbing her Joey's "you-know-what."

Always ready to help a colleague, I have a suggestion in place of "you-know-what." That's "girlfriend." That's what Kris is, though it might well be "ex-girlfriend" by now. "Mistress" is not really apropos, since it connotes a woman who is conducting an illicit love affair and is financially dependent on the man. Alma is Joey's "estranged wife," and Joey is the two women's mistake.

Observations on the Filipino dandy 1871

(Any resemblance to any living person is, of course, a coincidence.)

THE VANITY of local officials borders on arrogance. This is most evident in the provinces, especially in the case of those with official functions.

Nothing comes close to the arrogance of the *gobernadorcillos*, who when they go to office at the municipal hall every day make two councilmen fetch them, wait for them as long as they please and later, with all solemnity, walk to the town hall, with the councilmen in front of them and sheriffs with their staffs in their hands behind. This little procession announces to all and sundry that an important man is passing by.

The escorts stop and form two rows at the entrance and the *gobernadorcillo* passes through the middle without greeting anyone. Later he sits on a chair placed on an elevated platform as though he were seated on a throne.

This also occurs in church where all the *principales*, i.e., *gobernadorcillos*, *cabezas de barangay* and as many as have "Don" and "Doña" before their names sit in the central nave, observing the rules of etiquette scrupulously. The *gobernadorcillo*, the ex-*gobernadorcillos* who are called past captains by order of antiquity, the first lieutenant who is a *cabeza de barangay*, other *cabezas de barangay*, two lieutenants, nine incumbent officials, past *cabezas* and sometimes a visiting captain from another province sit among those of his class and are given a place of importance. The lieutenants and officials when they retire are called *titulados* (entitled in more ways than one I imagine).

Men dress in the same style with little difference throughout the archipelago. They wear silk or cotton trousers tied at the waist with a kerchief whose folds serve as pockets. The shirt is of cotton, *piña* or *sinamay* and is worn over the pants on purpose -this being very comfortable for such a warm climate

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

Some use European style hats but prefer the *salacot*—with reason as it provides excellent protection against the sun like an umbrella. It is generally woven from *jonquil* or bamboo or it is made from tortoise shell, decorated with rich needlework and embroideries. The most highly valued are those fabricated in Camarines, Albay and Bulacan. The hats are much appreciated as presents and sometimes even used as currency!

Instead of the *salacot*, others use a piece of cloth over their heads tied in different ways, especially the Montescos who follow the Malay fashion. All wear rosaries around their necks, which almost always are made of coral or gold, with gold medals as well as scapulars on their chests.

Textiles are generally of excellent quality. Frequently rays of various colors are painted over a white background. The neck, shirt front and cuffs of the shirts are embroidered very finely. Trousers are dark blue, and if silk, white.

The rich native women are fond of elegant embroidered clothes. They also wear diamond brooches and jewels of gold and pearls by which their social standing is announced. For their headdress they use very fine pearls. The *panuelo* of *piña* is notable for its value and the hat of *nito* —so fine it can be folded and put inside one's pocket—takes years to make.

There are old people who preserve trousers of silk that are wide and large and covered with embroideries that were the costume of the old *maguinoos* or leaders of the towns. They wear the *sinamay* shirt and on top a jacket, and a small kerchief with green tips in the form of an x-shaped figure and an old hat, preserved in the same family sometimes for a hundred years.

On special occasions, the *gobernadorcillos* wear black suits of antique style with a plumed hat under their arm, a cane with a gold knob, cords and tassels that signify their position, and a ceremonial sword. Velvet is often used, especially for slippers.

In the colder areas of Ilocos and Cagayan, the clothes are of thicker materials.

The Tagalogs cut their hair in a style that leaves the front very long and toward one side. They shave the back portion of their heads, leaving a semicircular shape with the convex section downwards. They use a lot of scented coconut oil.

Others allow their hair to grow long at the back and make a pigtail, gathering it under their hat.

The women comb their hair gracefully, brushing it backwards and forming a *pusod* or *mono*. The style is nothing but a large knot traversed by a pin generally of gold or with a head of precious stones.

The Tagalas have beautiful hair. They take care of it carefully, rubbing perfume on it mixed with tamarind juice. They also use coconut oil with an infusion of sampaguita or other scented flowers. It takes hours for their hair to dry.

The Filipina is very clean and tidy in general, more than the European, but her love for coiffure and neatness borders on the excessive.

The heels of their feet are cleaned daily with pumice stone and lime juice. When their hair begins to turn white, they dye it.

They wash their hands with cooked rice and paint their heels vermilion and since their slippers barely cover their feet, the heels are seen immediately when they take a step.

(From "Cronica de las Islas Filipinas." Fernando Fulgosio, 1871)

My guardian lola

Carmela de la Cruz

LOLA Mommy died in her room at my mother's house one fine Wednesday morning not very long ago. It was a peaceful death. Her caregiver told us that they were having a conversation when my lola suddenly became quiet. That was it. No sigh, no struggle, no call for help. Peaceful.

My reaction to the news was somewhat strange. I was in the family studio right across the street doing some editing jobs and my 8-year-old son was sleeping peacefully on the reception couch, when I heard a sharp rap on the glass door. It was Kuya bearing the news.

It took a while before everything sank in. Strangely all I could ask him was, "Why?" I simply couldn't believe it. How could lola have died so suddenly? It wasn't even 24 hours since she shooed me out of her room because she was having allergies and she didn't want to infect me with her virus.

Not knowing what else to do, I followed my brother back to my mom's house. The scene there was worse than I had expected it to be. It seemed as if everyone was still in a state of shock, although the ambulance that would take my lola's body to the funeral parlor was already inching its way into our driveway.

I couldn't take it. I had to be alone. I needed to be alone. So I went back to the studio where I sat, stunned. There was only one thing that I wanted to happen right there and then. I wanted my lola's soul to appear right before me so that I could say two simple words that I needed her to hear: "I'm sorry."

Then the tears started to flow.

Life is indeed short. Too short for me to show lola that I cared for her, that I appreciated her taking me under her wings until I was 6, that I liked the way she loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren equally, that she was indeed the best lola one could ever have.

How many times had I planned to serve her more out of love than obligation? How long had she waited for me to go to her room to talk to her, even if only for a short time?

Now the same lola is gone, physically at least, and wonder of wonders, I, a self-proclaimed fraidy cat, am not scared if ever lola decides to pay me a visit while I work long hours inside our family studio. Sadly, I wish she would do so. After all, even if I cry until my tear ducts are drained, the guilt will still be there, and it will always be there.

I'm sorry, Lola Mommy.

Carmela dela Cruz, 28, works as a video editor in their family studio.

LETTERS

Right on the money

FOR THE FIRST time in memory, I didn't get chest pains after reading the editorial and Conrado de Quiros' column ("Long goodbye" and "To the max" respectively). The two pieces, both published on Aug. 2, 2002, were absolutely on the money, in my opinion.

On the main editorial: Analogous to this story/analysis (of the successful completion of the US advisory role) is the talented boxer who must wait for the right combination of coaching to lift his skills to championship-caliber level.

I have little doubt that the AFP officers are up to their appointed task without continuous US oversight or presence. Seeing is believing.

The operation to free the hostages in Zamboanga del Norte last June, for example, proved how world-class the AFP Scout Rangers really are. Spread the word, walk tall.

Success is contagious. So is leadership.

On "There's the Rub": As usual, De Quiros makes his point with incredible clarity while, in this case, raising the bar of appropriate police "response" to civilian protesters who do not break any laws.

In the United States, for example, a cop's "ego" must be left in the briefing room—before hitting the streets—for retrieval at the end of his or her shift. It's not easy—and nobody said it was. If you are offended to the point of "retaliation" by remarks about your mother, your mate, your sex life, or the way you do your job, you shouldn't be wearing a badge, much less carrying a firearm, a night stick, or even handcuffs.

The "rule of law" can never be the rule of "you," or you become "one of them." In my police department, you'd also be looking for another job. The Philippine National Police, I'm confident, is up to its task as well.

—ELLIOTT ANDERSON, Pan-Am Clarin, Misamis Occidental

Valuing a good name over power

LET me add my voice in support of Raul Roco's decision to immediately quit his post "in point of honor" upon learning that the President had endorsed for investigation an old complaint from the Department of Education cabal.

In a government where public officials cling to their posts like leeches, it's refreshing to find someone like Roco who values "a hard-earned name" more than the power and influence that his former position brings.

Now he is free to answer all the charges hurled against him without being constrained by how his answers would reflect on his boss' image.

Obviously stung by his criticisms about the shabby treatment performing assets like him got from GMA, administration lapdogs dismissed Roco as someone "who will soon be forgotten" by the people.

From the warm ovation Bicol's favorite son got from the thousands of people who attended the Megastar's recent concert at the Araneta, and the many statements of support he's been getting from teachers and students all over the country, I seriously doubt the accuracy of that prediction.

I for one will remember Roco in 2004.

—ED DAMES, 23 Bagong Anyo St., De Castro Subd., Sta. Lucia, Pasig City

Critics helped push up GMA rating

THE RECENT survey of the Social Weather Stations showing a rise in the popularity of President Macapagal-Arroyo is something to be happy about, especially for people close to her. However, let us not forget the reason her approval rating went up.

The biggest factor was her response to the PPA problem. Without the stubbornness of people from the Freedom from Debt Coalition, Bayan Muna, KMU, etc. in exposing the suspect IPP deals, we would still be bearing the burden of paying very expensive electricity rates. Without the information they provided the public, there would have been no widespread protests on the issue. The information they provided galvanized the support of both the rich and the poor, which she couldn't ignore.

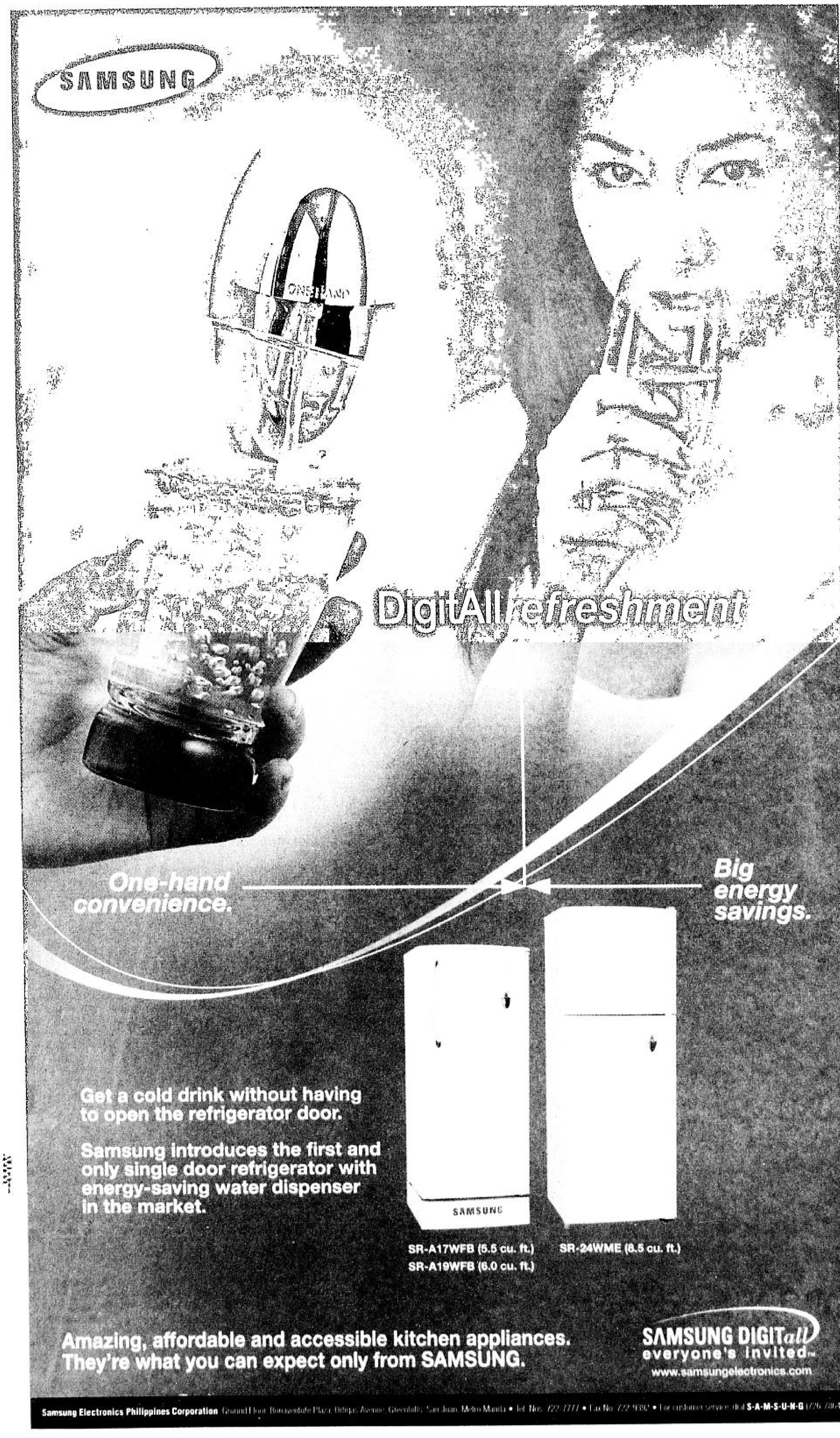
In a democracy, we need such groups to serve the interests of the people. I congratulate them for their valuable contribution and I hope they continue to do so in the future.

Now that the President enjoys greater confidence from the public, I hope she does not turn her back on her promises to provide security of tenure for the urban poor communities on the lands they occupy, provide basic services in the resettlement areas and stop demolitions unless decent housing is ready for the relocatees.

We observe that the process of land proclamation has slowed down, for example.

I have to express concern over the idea of building a strong republic if MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando is a typical leader in such a republic. His lack of compassion for the poor who are trying to make a meager living and survive is heartless and misguided. There are decent and humane ways of doing things. A strong republic should not have a bully like him but leaders of understanding and sensitivity who treat people as equals.

—ALICIA GENTOLIA MURPHY, field coordinator, Urban Poor Associates, 28-B Matino St., Sikatuna Village, QC



What the new DepEd chief should be

THIS is about the editorial titled "Roco's replacement."

We wish to express our appreciation for the INQUIRER's taking part in the process of selecting the next Department of Education secretary by highlighting perceived strengths and limitations of the candidates for the post. We believe that the role of the incoming secretary is to chart a new direction for coming generations that advocates a liberative education for the Filipino people. An education that reflects the answer to the challenges of our times and the collective thoughts of an entire people and not simply the vision of one man.

It is our belief that familiarity in this instance need not necessarily breed contempt but rather serves as a means to cut across the bureaucracy without need to first understand the requisites of the department. There are many professional civil servants in our ranks who will undoubtedly uphold the dignity of our office and not abuse our "very chummy" relation with Nilo Rosas. While corruption exists in this department, it does not mean most DepEd employees are involved in these criminal acts. We in fact organized ourselves into a union to ensure the integrity of this department and went as far as charging the former secretary of corrupt practices. We further say that the dictatorial style of management rather than a consultative style of management provides more opportunity for corruption because built-in checks and balances are effectively removed.

Lastly, we wish to say that the only prominence that the DepEd needs is a high standard of education that is responsive to the needs of our people brought about by years of academic experience and civil service.

—DOMINGO ALIDON, president, DepEd Central Office Employees' Union, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Two priests' vision of life

THE PIECE, "Men of great desires," by Fr. John J. Carroll, S.J., last Aug. 11 flooded my mind with wonderful memories of the two Jesuits: William P. Masterson and James McMahon who had greatly influenced my views as a student and mapped out the main directions my life later on took as a professional.

Fr. Bill Masterson came to Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City just as I was entering the college of liberal arts in the mid-'50s. He immediately took me under his wings as his student-assistant in his office as student counselor. Under his guidance, I imbibed the Church's social doctrines on the dignity of labor and the value of human life. Father Bill also broadened my readings to include Chesterton, Belloc, Thompson, Mauriac and other profound continental writers. And at the spiritual level, he lead me to Marianology.

I would think, though, that the best legacy that Father Bill left to us, his boys, was his insistence that we should love our country to the best of our ability and help people help themselves in whatever field of endeavor we might find ourselves. To show us the way, he not only established the XU College of Agriculture but he also organized the XU student credit union that eventually led to the proliferation of all kinds of cooperatives throughout the island of Mindanao.

After I got my baccalaureate degree, whom did I meet as the brand new regent of the XU College of Law where I had by that time matriculated? None other than Fr. Jim McMahon.

Soon into our acquaintanceship, Father Jim lost no time encouraging me to test the practicality of the principle that Ateneans are men for others by running for public office. He made it sound as if it were a no-risk proposition for me because he said that should I lose, I could always go back and teach at the university! And believe it or not, twice I had to go back to the university to continue my life in the academe as I learned in my first attempts that local politics was no walk in the park.

Shortly after he became the president of the university, Father Jim maintained his trust in me by having me appointed as the first alumnus-dean of the College of Law. It was a big leap of faith for him because at 28, I was barely out of law school and certainly a callow upstart by the standards of the legal profession.

But the thing that Father Jim impressed upon me most was the message of his life: that it is possible to keep one's spiritual orientation even in a mundane environment. That he had become the first Catholic priest-member of the Rotary Club, a bastion of practical business executives, was his way, I think, of illustrating the point—although it did raise a lot of quizzical eyebrows among the city's more conservative elements then.

Truly, it was a blessing that these two messengers of God came to Cagayan de Oro City. For not only did they cause a vigorous ferment in the university's intellectual circles, they also enabled us, lesser mortals who worshipped at their feet, to catch a glimpse of their vision of life in the service of God and people.

—SEN. AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR., Senate, 6/F GSIS Bldg., Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

NOW, FOREST FIRE IN SPAIN AFP

Firemen try to put out a fire raging through the forest of Barbadas, northwestern Spain early August 23. The wildfire destroyed 200 hectares of forest, authorities said.

$200-B FLIGHT

Saudis fear money in US may be frozen

CAIRO—A report on Saudi investors withdrawing their assets in the United States because of fears they might be frozen was the main business news item this week in the Middle East.

There were mixed reactions to the report, in Wednesday's Financial Times, that Saudi investments worth $200 billion fled the United States.

Saudi billionaire Prince Al-Walid bin Talal bin Abdul Aziz on Thursday said "there may be some withdrawals, but not of the magnitude mentioned in the FT." Al-Walid, a nephew of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, said that as far he was concerned, he was increasing his investments in some US companies, including Citigroup.

Bankers in several Arab countries confirmed that Arab funds were in search of new investment opportunities, but were not able to say how much or whether they were fleeing the United States.

Lebanon's Central Bank Governor Riad Salameh said in comments published by Thursday's An-Nahar newspaper that Lebanese banks were "attracting deposits of capital that are being withdrawn from some places.

"I cannot give figures because of the banking secrecy principle, but I can say that contacts that have been engaged with us and the activities of Arab bankers show an interest in our banking sector," he told the Lebanese daily.

Last week, the Saudi central bank said deposits in local banks rose 6.4 percent to $78 billion on June 30, from $73.3 billion a year ago, partly because of repatriation of funds from overseas.

The FT has quoted Youssef Ibrahim, a senior fellow at the US-based Council on Foreign Relations, saying the fund withdrawal had been fueled by calls from some US hardliners for a freezing of Saudi assets.

Ibrahim said the outflows could pick up in response to the suit filed in the United States last week against three members of the Saudi royal family, Sudan and several Gulf banks and charities by relatives of the victims of the September 11 attacks, accused of financing the al-Qaida network.

Other major developments in the Middle East came from Moscow, as Russia on Monday confirmed it was close to striking a massive economic deal with Iraq, but denied it was worth $40 billion as reported by Baghdad.

The news prompted Washington to remind Russia of its obligation to respect UN sanctions against Iraq.

Iraq's ambassador to Moscow, Abbas Khalaf, said the five-year agreement covers cooperation in various industries, including oil, electrical energy, chemical products, irrigation, railroad construction and transport.

Russia also signed a deal with Kuwait to jointly develop oil fields and projects on their respective territories, Kuwait's acting oil minister, Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, said Monday during a visit to Moscow.

Russia's giant oil producer Sibneft had already applied to take part in a tender for the future development of Kuwait's northern oil fields, on the border with Iraq, whose reserves are estimated at $10 billion. *AFP*

UN asked to probe mass grave of Taliban prisoners

UNITED NATIONS—The US-based Physicians for Human Rights advocacy group asked the United Nations Thursday to set up an independent inquiry to examine evidence from a mass grave said to contain around 1,000 Taliban prisoners discovered in northern Afghanistan.

Leonard Rubenstein, executive director of the Boston, Massachusetts-based group warned that a UN decision announced in Kabul Thursday to turn responsibility for the investigation of the mass grave at Dasht-e-leile to the government of Afghanistan "could seriously jeopardize the investigation."

"It is insufficient and irresponsible for the United States and the United Nations to hand over the investigation of this grave to the Afghans alone at a time when their government is struggling to obtain basic resources," Rubenstein said.

"An impartial, comprehensive investigation of the site will provide the necessary physical evidence to get at the truth of how many people died and when and the cause and manner of their death," he added.

Defense Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim, who earlier disputed the existence of a mass grave in the desert area of Dasht-e-leile, "was head of all Northern Alliance force at the time of the alleged killings," Rubenstein noted.

The United Nations said Thursday it would be prepared to assist any investigation into the alleged mass grave, while the Afghan government also said it was willing to cooperate with any investigation into the alleged mass grave. *AFP*

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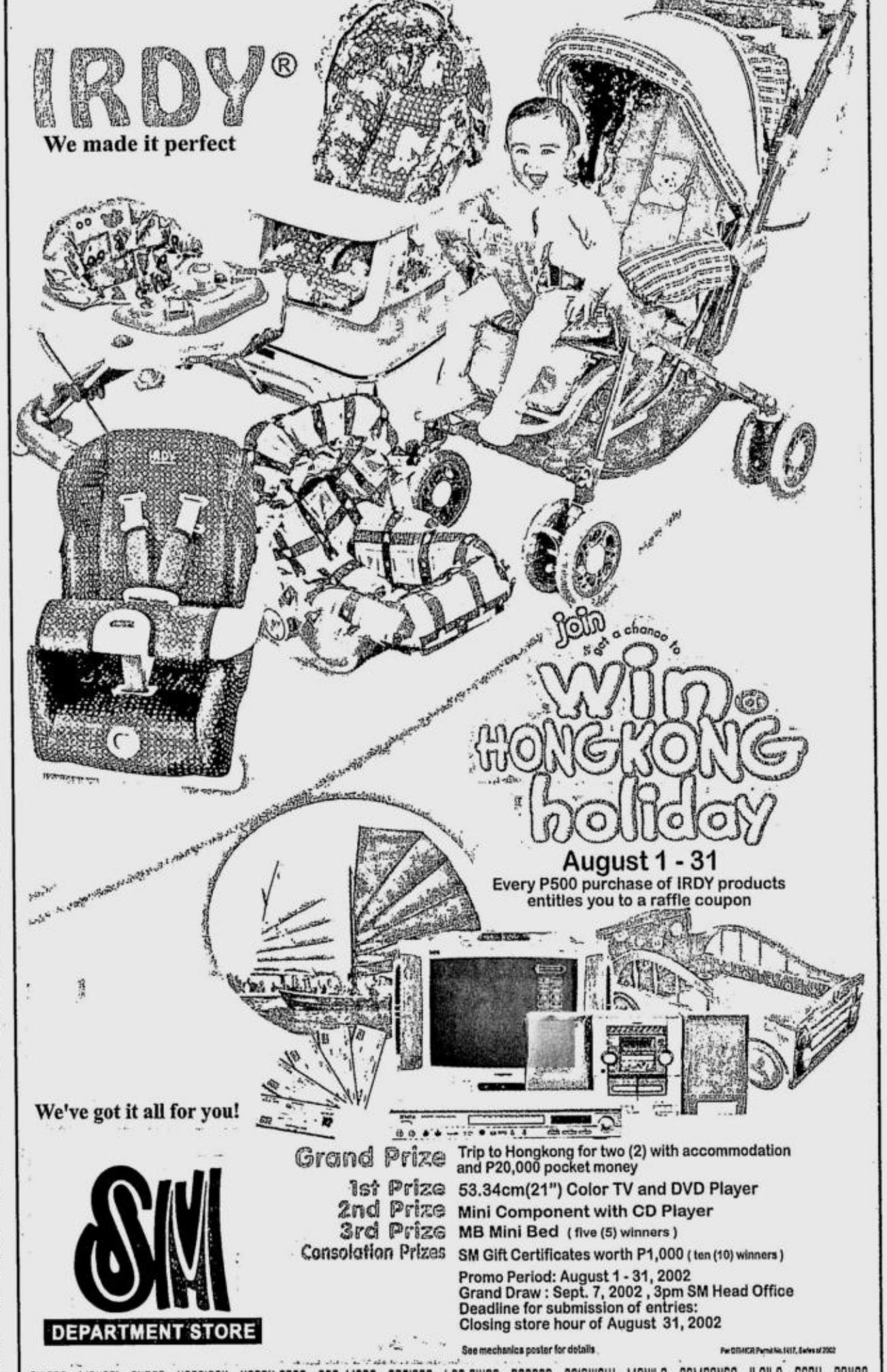

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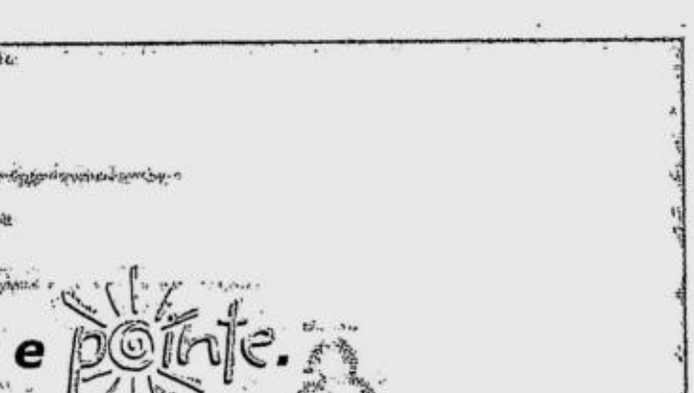

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US allies not keen about attack on Iraq

LONDON—As talk of an attack on Iraq bubbles in the United States, concern mounts even among American allies in a world wary about the implications of a second war with Saddam Hussein.

US President George W. Bush tried on Wednesday to calm speculation about a military confrontation, but he's likely to face deep-seated doubts from foreign friends if he decides to fight the man he describes as a threat to international peace.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov on Thursday called the idea of an attack on Iraq "unacceptable," saying his country did not agree Saddam should be ousted. Russia confirmed Monday that it was talking with Iraq about a 10-year trade agreement involving extensive new commercial cooperation.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw reiterated Thursday that military action remained an option, but told British Broadcasting Corp. radio that the government's policy was to press for the renewal of weapons inspections in Iraq.

As the Bush administration's talk grows tougher, even stalwart allies are expressing serious qualms, saying they're not convinced the Iraqi leader poses an imminent danger.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has warned against an invasion and said he would not send troops to what he called an "adventure" in Iraq.

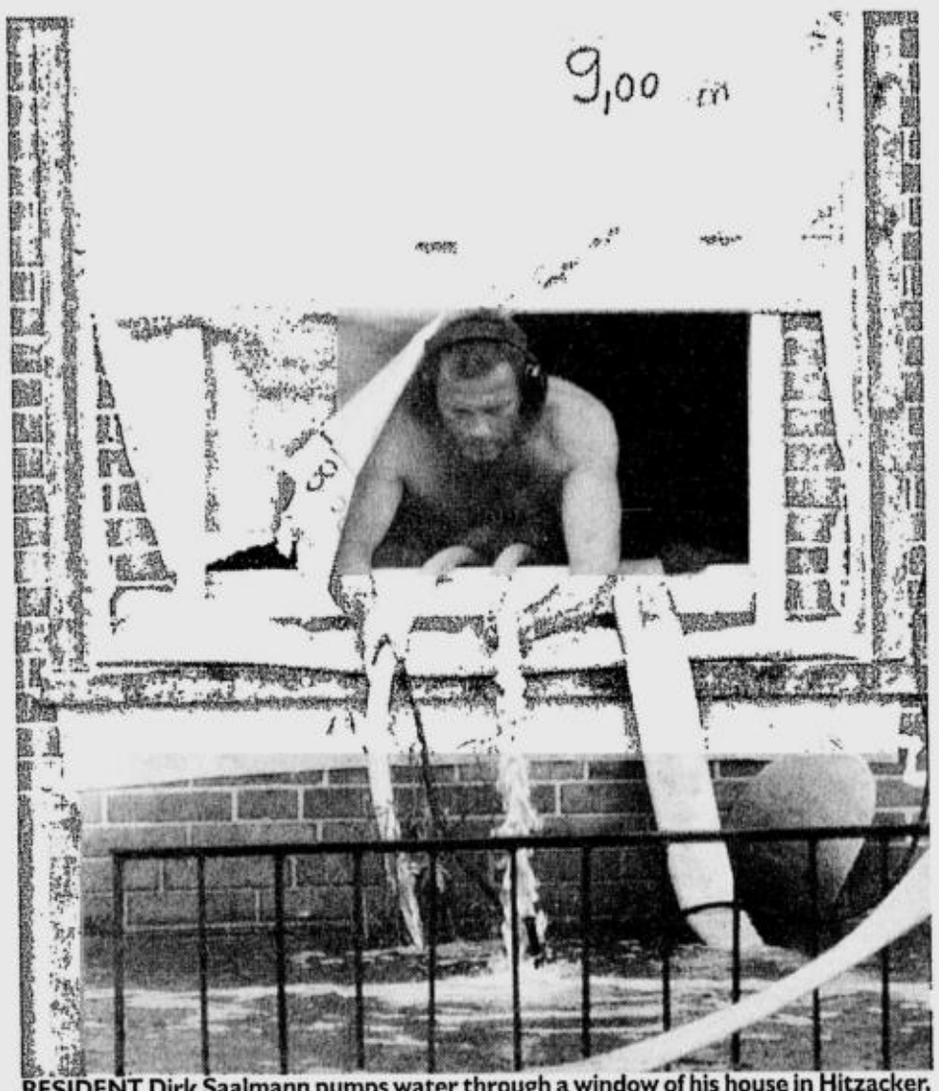
Canadian Defense Minister John McCallum said it was "very unlikely" Canada would participate unless Bush comes up with stronger evidence of the threat from Saddam. Germany and Canada both sent soldiers to fight in Afghanistan.

Other European allies have been noncommittal, while Middle Eastern states that gave crucial help in the Persian Gulf War have said they oppose or have serious doubts about fighting Saddam again now.

Critics fear a pre-emptive strike could leave worldwide support for the American-led fight against terrorism in tatters and further destabilize the Middle East. Some say it would be foolhardy to start a new war in the region while the Israeli-Palestinian conflict grinds on.

Even in Britain, whose support likely would be key to any US plans, a recent poll found half of those asked do not want their military to participate in an offensive against Iraq.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has spoken frequently about the threat from Saddam and, while insisting no decision has been made, is viewed as Bush's strongest ally in any bid to topple the Iraqi leader. *AP*



RESIDENT Dirk Saalmann pumps water through a window of his house in Hitzacker, Lower Saxony August 22. The flood levels of river Elbe of eight and nine meters, marked on a plastic film covering the window, were not reached. AFP

German floods ease; cultural treasures lost

DANNENBERG, Germany — High waters moved closer to the mouth of the Elbe on Thursday, as the river kept thousands of volunteers scrambling to reinforce dikes to prevent further flooding and European leaders discussed how to finance the cleanup.

As the Czech Republic began to rebuild, officials said the flooding caused millions of dollars' worth of damage to cultural treasures, including handwritten scores by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and a rare bible.

The rain-fed floods that have raged across central and eastern Europe have caused billions of euros (dollars) of damage and claimed the lives of 113 people.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's government decided Thursday to increase corporate tax for one year to 26.5 percent from 25 percent to help raise extra money for reconstruction.

The move came in response to an offer by the German Industry Federation for its members to pay a higher tax temporarily to help tens of thousands of flood victims in the country, he told reporters. *AP*

DEFENSE Minister Martha Lucia Ramirez during a news conference in Bogota, Colombia, Aug. 22. AP

Colombia plans to arm peasants

BOGOTA, Colombia—President Alvaro Uribe's government plans to arm 15,000 peasants to support the armed forces in the fight against outlawed rebel and paramilitary groups, Colombia's defense minister said Thursday.

The recruits—akin to reservists—will receive military training and a small salary paid by a new 1.2 percent war tax being imposed on higher-income businesses and individuals in Colombia, Defense Minister Martha Lucia Ramirez said.

The recruitment of the 15,000 peasant reservists, in addition to 25,000 regular army troops and police, is expected to be completed by March, Ramirez told a press conference.

The government is obtaining cost estimates for assault rifles, machine guns, mortars and grenade launchers from US and European manufacturers, according to media reports. Uniforms and boots are being made for the mainly poor farmers, who will live in their homes and protect their own neighborhoods.

Analysts and human rights monitors say the plan risks turning neutral civilians into targets of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the Farc, or the paramilitaries.

"You are turning these people—as a legal matter, as a practical matter—into combatants," said Arturo Carrillo, a professor and human rights law expert at Columbia University in New York.

"If and when the Farc starts going after these people, they will not be in violation of international law."

Ramirez stressed that the 15,000 armed peasants will work with military and police units and will not be unsupervised gunmen roaming the countryside.

"There is no strategy within the government's policy to have these people acting outside the institutions," the defense minister told journalists in the presidential palace.

The war pits the Farc and another leftist guerrilla group against Colombia's US-backed military and the right-wing paramilitaries.

In theory, government forces are to back the peasant-soldiers in the event of an attack. But there are no government forces in 186 of the 1,000 counties, barely so in 227 others. *AP*

China mobilizes army as 600,000 flee surging flood

CHENGLINGJI, China—China on Friday began a "massive" mobilization of soldiers and civilians to combat surging flood waters that have driven more than 600,000 people from their homes.

More than a million people, including 15,000 troops and 100,000 militia members, are working to shore up defenses around Dongting Lake and surrounding rivers in the central province of Hunan, the state Xinhua news agency reported early Friday.

Over 600,000 people have already been evacuated from around the lake and 16 have died, according to official figures, indicating a real humanitarian crisis has already begun.

Additionally, Vice Premier Wen Jiabao ordered a "massive mobilizing" of troops and other workers to combat flooding, warning starkly that the country "cannot afford to make mistakes," Xinhua said.

Up to 10 million people could be engulfed if Dongting—likened by one aid worker to "a balloon filled with water" and set to burst—spills over into one of China's most densely-populated regions.

The massive 2,800 sq. km lake acts as a natural reservoir for the Yangtze River, leaving vast numbers at risk downstream, including seven million in the major industrial city of Wuhan.

The Xiang River, which runs through Hunan's capital city of Changsha is also dangerously swollen, local officials say.

In Changsha, several thousand people have already been forced out of soaked homes on Juzizhou, a small island in the centre of the river, Red Cross spokesperson France Hurtubise said.

"The island looked almost completely waterlogged, although the water levels seemed to go down a bit overnight. But the river is still emptying into Dongting lake, so that is the real concern now," she said.

At least 16 people have been killed around the lake with 8.4 million affected in some way and 415,000 hectares (one million acres) of crops damaged, the Ministry of Civil Affairs told the official China Daily.

Dongting basin is one of China's most important rice-growing areas. In the particular danger spot of Chenglingji town, where the Yangtze gushes out of the lake, water levels Friday morning were at 34.75 meters, almost three meters above danger levels, anti-flood officials said.

Buildings which had been some distance from the lake on Thursday had water lapping half way up doorways the next morning, as locals desperately piled up sandbags to minimize damage.

Although the region is currently bathed in sunshine, rivers swollen by days of earlier rain are continuing to gush into the lake, with waters expected to continue rising into the weekend.

Increasing number of workers, many requisitioned from state-run firms, were arriving in Chenglingji and other towns to work on embankments and watch for danger.

"We are on 24-hour watch to see if anything happens with the floods," said Tang Jian, an employee of a state-run power firm. *AFP*

Japan mad cow case batters consumer confidence anew

TOKYO—Ever since mad cow disease first reared its head in Japan last September, Akiko Seio has been a wary beef eater. Now a fifth case of the scourge has her looking askance at pork and chicken too.

"It's not just beef," she said. "I'm a bit apprehensive about food in general." The Health Ministry confirmed the latest case of mad cow disease late on Thursday, dealing yet another blow to consumer confidence in a country grown accustomed to health scares and food-safety scandals.

The outbreak has gutted Japan's appetite for beef, hammered earnings of food companies and restaurants and shaken faith in the government's ability to protect the public.

People on their way to work on Friday expressed alarm at the news of the first case of the brain-wasting disease since May—despite low-key coverage by domestic media.

"I'm worried," one woman said. "I just hope the Farm Ministry will investigate the case thoroughly." Formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), mad cow disease has been linked in humans to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which has killed about 125 people worldwide but none in Japan.

The Farm Ministry has started investigating how a six-year-old Holstein dairy cow in Isehara city, southwest of Tokyo, became infected. Cattle are believed to contract BSE by eating contaminated meat-and-bone meal (MBM).

Previous cases have been discovered in Chiba, east of Tokyo, the northern prefecture of Gunma and Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido.

The Farm Ministry is checking which companies supplied feed to the cow, and whether it was fed MBM as an adult or milk substitutes as a calf.

In each of the previous four cases, the cows were weaned on milk substitutes produced by the same plant in Gunma prefecture, north of Tokyo.

Since October, Japan has screened all cattle slaughtered for beef for BSE. The Health Ministry says about a million cows have been tested to date, of which 95 came up positive in crude preliminary results.

"Consumers are still wary about eating beef, but they do understand that the beef on the market is from cows that tested negative for BSE," said Hiroko Mizuhara, secretary-general of Japan's largest consumer group, the Consumers Union of Japan.

Shares in food companies that saw their earnings plummet after September held steady on Friday.

McDonald's Holdings Co (Japan) Ltd , Japan's top restaurant chain, ended unchanged at 2,800 yen, and Yoshinoya D&C Co Ltd , the country's biggest beef-bowl restaurant chain, lost 0.46 yen to 216,000 yen.

"Sure, mad cow is still a cloud hanging over the restaurant industry," said Shuiichi Hida, portfolio manager at Sanyo Investment Trust Management, which oversees 66 billion yen investment trusts.

"But consumers and the market seem to have built up an immunity to it all." *Reuters*

North Korea's Kim arrives in Vladivostok

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia—North Korea's Stalinist leader Kim Jong-Il arrived Friday in Russia's far eastern city of Vladivostok where he was due to hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The talks, focusing on the development of the Asian country's infrastructure including a planned rail link that would join the two Koreas to Western Europe via Russia's Trans-Siberian railway, would be be held later in the day, local administration officials said.

Kim was greeted at the city's central railroad station by the Primorye region's Governor Sergei Darkin and Vladivostok Mayor Yuri Kopylov.

The North Korean leader, dressed in his traditional military fatigues despite heavy rain and stormy winds, first visited the city's port.

He then eyed Russian souvenir shawls and matryoshkas on display at a local trade center, taking a particular interest in a kiosk selling icons and religious literature.

Kim was then presented with an icon and a souvenir adorned with semi-precious stones mined in the Primorye region.

The purpose of Kim's visit to Russia's Far Eastern region is ostensibly to examine various options for "economic development," to boost North Korea's failing economy.

The meeting with Putin, who flew into Vladivostok late Thursday, had long been trailed in the Russian media but was only officially confirmed on Thursday.

The secrecy prompted analysts and diplomats to suspect that Kim had launched his "unofficial" tour without a direct invitation from Putin, who finds himself in a tight spot in meeting the Stalinist chief just as his own relations with Washington blossom.

North Korea has been branded a member of an "axis of evil" by US President George W. Bush, and while Putin has made efforts to bring Pyongyang out its political isolation, his previous meetings with Kim have brought mixed results.

Kim's second plunge into Russia in two years comes amid signs of major changes being made to the paralyzed North Korean economy. *AFP*

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin (right) and North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il hug each other during their meeting in Vladivostok, August 23. The talks between the two leaders are expected to focus on bilateral cooperation and economic issues. AFP

Brazil creates world's largest tropical forest park

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—Setting aside a swath of Amazon rainforest bigger than Belgium, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso signed a decree Thursday creating the world's largest tropical national park.

The Tumucumaque Mountains National Park covers a virtually uninhabited region of virgin rainforest in Amapa state, along Brazil's northern borders with Suriname and Guyana.

"With the creation of Tumucumaque Mountains National Park, we are ensuring the protection of one of the most pristine forests remaining in the world," Cardoso said in a statement. "Plants and animals that may be endangered elsewhere will continue to thrive in our forests forever."

Deforestation has destroyed about 15 percent of Brazil's Amazon rainforest, which today covers about 3.5 million sq. km. Roads have accelerated destruction of the forest by providing access for settlers, prospectors and loggers.

The new park is some 230,000 hectares (568,000 acres) larger Slonga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, until now the world's largest protected tropical reserve.

The presidential decree came four days before the opening of the Johannesburg Earth Summit. At the summit, he is expected to announce the Amazon Region Protected Areas program, which will put nearly 500,000 sq. km, including Tumucumaque, under federal protection.

President Cardoso also signed a series of measures regulating the use of genetic material gathered from Brazil's immense variety of plant and animal species.

Tumucumaque, which means "the rock on top of the mountain," in the language of the Apalai and Wayana Indians, is 3.8 million ha of forest-blanketed mountains with occasional outcroppings of granite rising as high 700 meters above the wooded canopy.

It is full of waterfalls and criss-crossed with whitewater rapids and rivers that are impassible even during the dry season, making it one of the few remaining regions largely unchanged by humans.

Jaguars, sloths, giant armadillos, anteaters, harpy owls and black spider monkeys inhabit the forest, and scientists know of at least eight species of primates, 350 of birds and 37 types of lizard there.

But they feel certain that further research will turn up surprises.

"The park is very important because it helps consolidate one of the world's last roadless wildernesses," said Roberto Cavalcanti, director of Conservation International in Brazil, which was among the several groups, including the World Wide Fund for Nature, which helped create the park.

"Much of the Amazon is still wild, but there are roads running through it."

Jose Maria Cardoso da Silva, CI's Director for Amazonia said, "This park today looks much like it would have hundreds of years ago, since Tumucumaque has not been deforested." *AP*

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15,000 deportees have fake passports

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Only 2,000 of the 17,000 Filipinos who were deported from Malaysia monitored by the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) since January hold valid travel documents.

Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat said the BID confirmed that some 15,000 Filipino deportees from Malaysia possess fake passports.

Military officials said some of the deportees could be members of the Abu Sayyaf, who fled the intensified crackdown on the bandit group since last year.

Lobregat said BID officials relayed the discovery of the fake passports in the hands of deportees to her.

Since Kuala Lumpur embarked on a stricter campaign against illegal aliens, thousands of Filipinos have either been forcibly sent home or have decided to flee the crackdown.

Filipinos caught staying illegally in Malaysia are caned.

Immigration agents would assist the returning Filipinos and it was during an inspection of their travel documents that the fake passports were discovered, according to Lobregat.

"I think DFA officials should investigate, within their level, how come these deportees managed to get fake passports. There's something wrong somewhere," Lobregat told the INQUIRER.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina admitted he found it surprising that a large number of the deportees do not have valid documents.

But he said he was more surprised at the delay in reporting the discovery.

"How come this report just came out lately and who are these fake passport holders? Where did they come from and how were they able to get such fake documents?" Carolina said.

He said it was possible that some Abu Sayyaf members who fled Basilan and Zamboanga City since July last year were also able to get fake passports, which they used in entering Malaysia.

Carolina admitted that there appears to be lack of coordination between the BID, the DFA, the police and the military in screening outgoing immigrants.

He said there were reports about Abu Sayyaf members leaving the country then but these were hardly checked.

Ricardo Cabaron, Western Mindanao regional prosecutor, said he believes that unscrupulous DFA employees were involved in the proliferation of fake passports.

He said it would only be proper for the justice department to investigate.

"We want to determine who are the people or employees involved in the release of fake passports," Cabaron told the INQUIRER.

Among the most notorious holders of fake passport was Indonesian bomber Fathur Roman Alghozie.

Alghozie got two passports with different identities from the Consular Office here in March last year.

"It's not fair to the public that the DFA conduct its own investigation," Cabaron said, explaining this as the reason the DOJ was taking the lead in the investigation. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Engineer meted death for boy's killing in 1999

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—An associate marine engineer on Thursday was meted with the death penalty for stabbing to death an eight-year-old boy in 1999.

Regional Trial Court Judge Fortunato de Gracia found Armando Ruiz guilty of killing Ian Francis Watin and ordered him to pay P303,000 in damages to the boy's family.

The crowd inside the courtroom broke into applause and cheers after the 23-page decision was read during the promulgation on Thursday.

"Salamat Lord, thank you," cried the victim's mother, Clarice.

Ruiz appeared stunned by the decision. He later told reporters that he was innocent of the charges. "My conscience is clear. I don't know anything about the killing," he said in Cebuano.

Higenio Hermosisima, Ruiz' lawyer, said the decision would be automatically reviewed by the Supreme Court.

Watin was found dead inside a sack in Barangay Kalunasan here on Jan. 31, 1999. He suffered 54 stab wounds in the face, neck and trunk.

In his decision, De Gracia said the prosecution was able to pin down Ruiz' guilt despite the absence of a witness who saw the actual killing.

The judge said the pieces of circumstantial evidence, when combined, "produced a conviction beyond reasonable doubt."

He also cited the spontaneous testimony of three witnesses who strengthened the circumstantial evidence presented by the prosecution.

Bank-issued bills turn up fake one

BATANGAS CITY—A British tourist visiting this city with his Filipina wife found the shock of his life when a P1,000 bill issued by the Philippine National Bank branch in this city turned out to be a fake note.

The 36-year old British victim, who requested anonymity, said he is afraid of going back to the bank or to the police to complain of the fake peso bill for fear of getting arrested.

"If I complain to the Philippine authorities, they will just jail me for spreading fake money," he said, "and I might just end up in jail if I didn't bribe them."

The victim said he withdrew P17,500 from the PNB on Monday from teller No. 6.

The money came in seven P1,000 bills, twenty P100 bills and the rest in P500 bills. He said he counted his money first before he left.

"At that point, recognizing the fake from the genuine bills is not possible," he said, "I've trusted my money to PNB since 1996. I've been depositing money in PNB branch in London and withdrawing here."

When he and his wife were about to buy groceries on Wednesday, both recognized the fake money.

"We were shocked," he said, "this might not be the first time I'm fooled with fake money but the people must be warned that even a bank as big as the PNB can issue fake money, your hard-earned money."

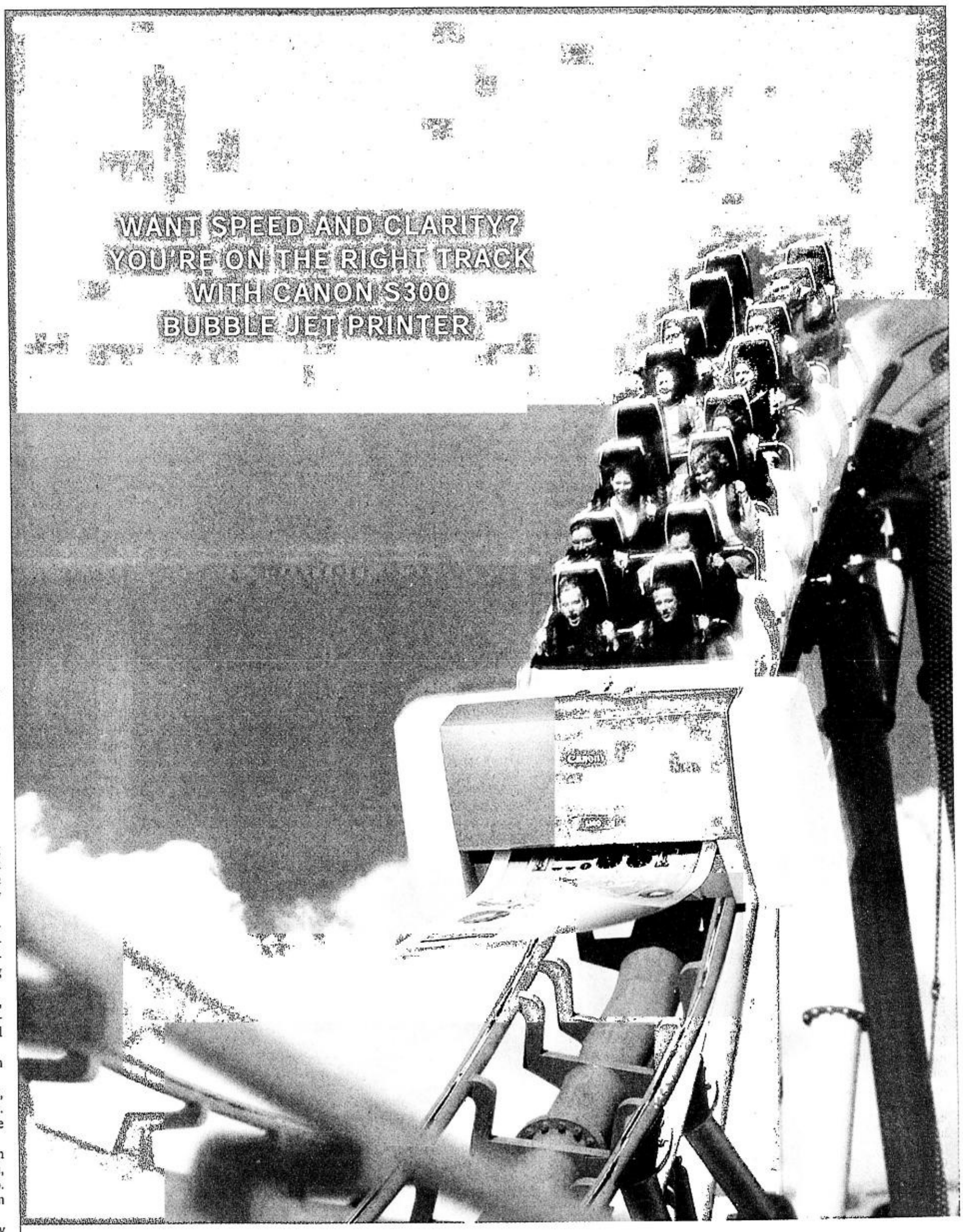
The fake P1,000 bill has blurred codes, figures and letters, and the paper can be split in half. It also bears the President's signature written in a different stroke, small code number, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas logo was also blurred.

"We were wondering why tourists would prefer to go Hong Kong when we know that the Philippines is a much more beautiful country," he said.

"Now we know. Here, you always have to watch your back or else someone may take your money," he said.

PNB Batangas city branch manager Manuel Lascano said the PNB does not issue fake money.

"It is very rare for us to have any fake money, but that is a possibility," Lascano said. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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'Bishop of the masses' turns 89

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

BISHOP Emeritus Antonio Y. Fortich was in a jovial mood last Aug. 11 as a steady flow of well-wishers arrived at his Domus Dei residence in Bacolod to greet him on his 89th birthday.

Fortich, known to many as the bishop of the masses, gave a firm handshake and sometimes a slap on the back to well-wishers who came from all walks of life.

True to his calling, he marked his birthday with a Mass at the Sacred Heart Shrine located beside the Domus Dei along Lizares Avenue, which was attended by Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra.

"The presence of Fortich is very, very powerful in the sense that he has endeared himself to all of us and is a very great inspiration to us in the Diocese of Bacolod," Navarra said. "Fortich is a great defender of human rights and a protagonist of the Church stand on social issues."

For the 89-year-old bishop, his message on his birthday was that life is a gift from God, which one must use productively to help others.

"Let us all be productive agents of His divine love to make the world a happy place to live in," he said.

"I am happy. I have no regrets. I have seen that the work I have done is bearing fruit, especially among the masses," he said.

"I am 89 years old. I do not deserve such a length of time but since the Lord God has gifted me this strength of life, I am pretty sure he is happy with my work, especially among the masses."

Cooperative

Fortich continues to attend board meetings of the Dacongcogon Sugar and Rice Milling Cooperative, which he helped establish in 1973 to serve the needs of small sugar farmers and help improve their lives economically.

But he keeps on speaking about social issues affecting the poor. The bishop is still a source of inspiration for many who go to him for advice.

"The work for the poor is not excluded from the package of retirement," said Fortich who retired in 1989.

Fortich has championed the cause of the poor when it was unpopular and dangerous to do so in a diocese where the landed class was the powers-that-be.

He risked his own life for the poor when he could have lived in comfort considering that he was born to a wealthy family.

Fortich is the eldest son of Ignacio Fortich, a Spanish meztizo, and Rosalia Yapsutco, who was half-Chinese. He was born on Aug. 11, 1913 at the Silliman University Hospital in Dumaguete City.

The Fortich family owned land in Sibulan town, Negros Oriental planted to rice, corn and sugar. They owned fishponds, too. They also had a turn-of-the-century sugar mill, producing brown sugar called *muscovado*.

Fortich said his parents were very religious. So it did not come as a surprise that even at a young age, Fortich already knew what he wanted—to be a priest.

Free clinic

"My mother had a free clinic in the hacienda for the workers. That gave me the idea that I wanted to serve the people when I grew up," he recalled.

In 1933, Fortich went to study at the Jesuit-run San Jose Seminary in Manila. On March 4, 1944, Fortich was ordained a priest and sailed to Bacolod. It was World War II and the Japanese had invaded the Philippines.

Fortich immediately became assistant priest of San Sebastian Cathedral and remained so until 1949, when he was assigned parish priest of Binalbagan town, Negros Occidental for a year and eight months.

He was then recalled to Bacolod where he became parish priest of the Cathedral. He became the right hand man of then Bacolod Bishop Manuel Yap and was appointed vicar general of the Diocese of Bacolod on Dec. 31, 1952.

In 1966, Fortich administered the diocese when Bishop Yap became seriously ill. When Yap died on Oct.16, 1966, Fortich took over and became the third bishop of the Diocese of Bacolod.

Following the mandate of Pope Paul VI "to do something for the poor of Negros," Fortich's first Episcopal act as bishop was to call on sugarcane planters to give just wages to their workers. He also stressed the workers' right to organize unions.

His pastoral letter in 1969 brought attention to the plight of the farm workers, especially the sacadas. "The Church is organizing all available resources to initiate or release the forces of change," he said in the pastoral letter.

Fortich created the Church Social Action Committee to make the diocese responsive to the needs of the time. It was headed by Fr. Luis Jalandoni, who later left the priesthood and is now the spokesperson of the National Democratic Front based in the Netherlands.

BISHOP Fortich celebrating Mass on his 89th birthday. CARLA GOMEZ

RM award

Fortich also helped establish the Dacongcogon Sugar and Rice Milling Cooperative in southern Negros Occidental, which earned for him the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service in 1973 for seeking "a just society of recognized rights and responsibilities."

It was a dangerous time and Fortich was faced with the real danger of being tagged as a communist.

But Fortich brushed this aside, went ahead and instituted the process of empowerment by adopting the Latin American experience of building Basic Christian Community (BCC).

Msgr. Victorino Rivas, moderator curiae of the Bacolod diocese, said the BCCs choose the path of active non-violence. They grew in militancy in opposing human rights violations, proposing land reform and challenging the laws of the regime, he added.

For such efforts, Fortich was called Ka Tony, a communist manner of being addressed by those who became threatened by the empowerment of the poor.

But he was consoled by Pope John Paul II who told him on his Ad Limina visit to Rome: "I know you are working for human rights and know that this work is risky for you and the Church. But the Church must continue working with the poor: otherwise she will lose them."

Side trip

One of the biggest triumphs of Fortich was to get Pope John Paul II to make a side trip to Negros Occidental during his visit to the Philippines in 1981.

"I told Cardinal Sin the Pope does not just want to see the scenery at Mayon Volcano. He wants to see the problems of the people," Fortich said.

Fortich said that during his visit to Bacolod, the Pope delivered one of his most powerful messages on behalf of the poor.

"Injustice reigns when the laws of economic growth and ever greater profit determine social relations, leaving in poverty and destitution those who have only the work of their hands to offer," Pope John Paul II had said.

Fortich relentlessly believed in the need for peaceful change that he eventually became national co-chair of the National Ceasefire Committee to pursue provincial and regional peace talks with the New People's Army.

It was also in the late 1980s that a strong anti-insurgency campaign was launched in Negros and rightist groups accused Fortich and his priests of being pro-communist.

When Fortich retired as Bacolod bishop in 1989, he continued to speak on behalf of the poor in Japan, the United States, and Europe.

He was also called upon to negotiate with rebels for the release of prisoners of war or hostages, the most prominent of whom were American Peace Corps Volunteer Timothy Swanson and Japanese Fumio Mizuno.

To Fortich, his greatest achievement is his close relationship with the common man and his ability to defend the common man's human rights.

"I have told the masses that God will not abandon them. They are his little treasures in this world," Fortich said as he marked another chapter of his colorful and meaningful life.

Survey says youth have wrong info on HIV/AIDS

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

ALMOST every young Visayan has heard about the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

However, a significant number (21 percent) of Visayan youth (ages 15-24) think that HIV/AIDS is curable and this proportion is increasing.

At least 69 percent of young Visayans believe that they are not likely to get HIV/AIDS. But the good news is that this number is declining.

The young Visayans' perceptions on HIV/AIDS and other issues were gleaned from the nationwide 2002 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey (YAFS) conducted by the Population Institute of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. Corazon Raymundo, professor at the Population Institute and project director of the nationwide survey, shared the preliminary results of the YAFS in a media workshop during the Visayas Convention on HIV/AIDS held in Bacolod City Aug. 9.

The survey, conducted last summer, involved some 3,500 youth in Western, Central and Eastern Visayas. This was the YAFS in the Visayas after 1994.

Raymundo said that the young Visayans' awareness of HIV/AIDS was high but they had the wrong perception about the disease.

She said that young people's current belief that AIDS is curable could be influenced by literature on the ongoing quest for an AIDS cure. In 1994, only 12 percent of the 2,100 youth surveyed believed that AIDS could be cured.

The survey revealed that Visayan youth take sex and sex-related risk behaviors. The percentage of young people who engage in premarital sex is on the rise, from 19 percent in 1994 to 24 percent in 2002. In the latest survey a big number of males (26 percent among singles and 7 1 percent among the married) engage in premarital sex. Young Visayan males have more sexual partners than young women.

Early sex among young Visayans is largely unprotected. Only 9 percent of the first premarital sex experiences were protected by contraception. The level of condom use is still low. The survey noted that 14.5 percent of young people have used condom in one or more sex encounters, with males reporting higher levels of use

A victory for children

LUCID INTERVAL
Rowena V. Guanzon

PURSUING Victor Pearson is the most coordinated rescue of abused children ever done in Negros Occidental. Pearson is an American Vietnam War veteran accused of hiring girls between 13 to 17 years old as household helps and raping them in his residence in Ilog town, south of Bacolod City.

Police and social workers immediately responded to the call of Kabankalan parish priest Fr. Henry Pineda, to whom the girls ran for help. On Aug. 16, 2001, the police, armed with a warrant of arrest for rape of a child, arrested Pearson in his residence. Social worker Teodora Padilla, seeing two scared minors, grabbed them and ran out as fast as they could.

On Aug. 7, less than a year since the complaint for two counts of rape was filed by a 15-year-old girl, the Regional Trial Court of Kabankalan sentenced Pearson to reclusion perpetua for each count of rape. The courtroom was packed on the day of the promulgation, and the people burst in applause when they heard the verdict.

The first complainant won her case, but she and her family were exposed to the ridicule of her neighbors. After the verdict, her mother cried and said now she can hold her head high, for her neighbors told her they could never win a case against a rich, white man. Although the social workers tried to protect the complainants' privacy, Magandang Gabi Bayan showed the faces of some of the girls' parents so their neighbors identified the girls. Department of Social Welfare and Development Regional Director Zenaida Mabugat was upset. Since then social workers were very strict in protecting the privacy of the minors

The decision of Judge Henry Arles stated that rape is an "assault on human dignity." It was a victory for children, but social workers in Negros Occidental noted that these are the first cases won by minors under the custody of the DSWD. There are many children whose cases were dismissed by the prosecutors or judges. An assistant city prosecutor of Bacolod dismissed the rape complaints of two girls against a barangay captain, stating that the girls were child prostitutes. A former vice mayor of Salvador Benedicto was accused of raping a child and the judge gave him bail.

The resolution of the prosecutor who dismissed the complaint against the barangay captain shows bias against poor children. The prosecutor probably forgot that even prostitutes can be raped. Under the Anti-Rape Law of 1997, even wives can be raped by their husbands. I never encountered this problem when my client was well to do or educated, or the child was below 7 years old. When girls are in adolescent age and poor, it is easy for many people to label them as prostitutes.

We faced the same obstacle in the cases against Pearson. If we did not educate people on rape through the media, we would not have overturned this misconception in the minds of many people. Rape victims can be babies, children or adult women, wives, prostitutes, rich, poor, illiterate or educated. Rapists can be poor, rich, drug addicts, educated, lawyers or priests. In prosecuting rape cases, we have to win the case both in court and in the eyes of the public. This is one way of erasing myths and misconceptions about rape

There are 65 counts of rape pending against Pearson filed by five girls. Three more girls are set to file complaints. These cases are now the laboratory of social workers of the DSWD and local governments, who, under the Rule on Examination of A Child Witness, can be appointed as child interpreters or facilitators by the court.

To be more effective in prosecuting cases of abused children, among the things that have to be done are a) recruit and train more lawyers who will handle cases of abused children and women; b) increase the DSWD's budget for protecting children's rights including the litigation of cases; c) have a manual and train the social workers in handling cases of children in court; d) the women's and children's concerns desk of the police should work closely with social workers who must assist children in giving statements; and, e) educate the media not to disclose the identity of victims, and advocate for community action to stop violence against children and women. As a result of the work of the police, social workers and the community in the cases against Pearson, the Philippine National Police in Negros Occidental now have a manual in handling cases of violence against women and children.

Justices, judges and prosecutors, too, need seminars on gender sensitivity and on the myths and misconceptions about rape. The police, lawyers and social workers can do their best, but it is on the desks of judges and the Department of Justice where the decisions are made.

To all those who supported the children, our thanks, especially to Secretary Dinky Soliman, Kabankalan Prosecutor Emmanuel Garde, and Vangie Laguardia of the CHR

Gloria 'mahangin' in PPA ad–Beltran

From page A1

"Your advertisement extolling your supposed achievement in bringing down electricity costs falls short of telling the truth," he added.

The ad shows an urban poor family beating the heat using only a tattered hand fan. Later, the family buys a brand-new electric fan from its savings due to the President's directive to reduce purchased power adjustment (PPA) fees. The ad ends with Ms Macapagal explaining her administration's policy of making electricity rates affordable.

"The PPA was reduced because of strong pressure from consumers all over the country, demanding that the anomalous and illegal electricity charge be done away with," Beltran said.

Not grateful

He said that even if there was a reduction in PPA rates, it still fell short of consumers' demand for the total scrapping of the PPA.

"Consumers are not grateful that they are being charged less for something they should not even be billed for," Beltran said.

It was an exaggeration, he added, to claim that the PPA reduction was so big that a family could buy a brand-new electric fan.

He likewise pointed out that the impact of the reduction was limited only to Luzon. Rates in the Visayas and Mindanao have remained basically the same.

Beltran said Ms Macapagal had been apathetic to the PPA issue and only began paying attention to the growing opposition to it when her approval ratings fell.

"Her concern was not so much for the public's welfare but for her own ratings. Before she took action against the PPA she first resorted to insults and name-calling," he said.

Ms Macapagal had scathingly dismissed Beltran's protests against the PPA by calling him a communist.

"In the beginning she even took up the cudgels for Meralco, Napocor and independent power producers, defending their supposed right to extract profit at the expense of public welfare," Beltran pointed out.

The President had earlier ordered the Napocor and the Energy Regulatory Commission to slash PPA charges and implement a uniform rate of 40 centavos for the purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA).

Beltran, however, said the total PPA continued to increase in the last two months because of increases in its other component, the fuel and purchased power cost adjustment (FPCA).

"This means that while the PPCA went down, the FPCA went up and the increase was greater than the amount reduced from the PPCA," he said.

Ex-nun accuses priest of rape, sues church

From page A1

Villaroya is currently a priest in San Antonio, Texas.

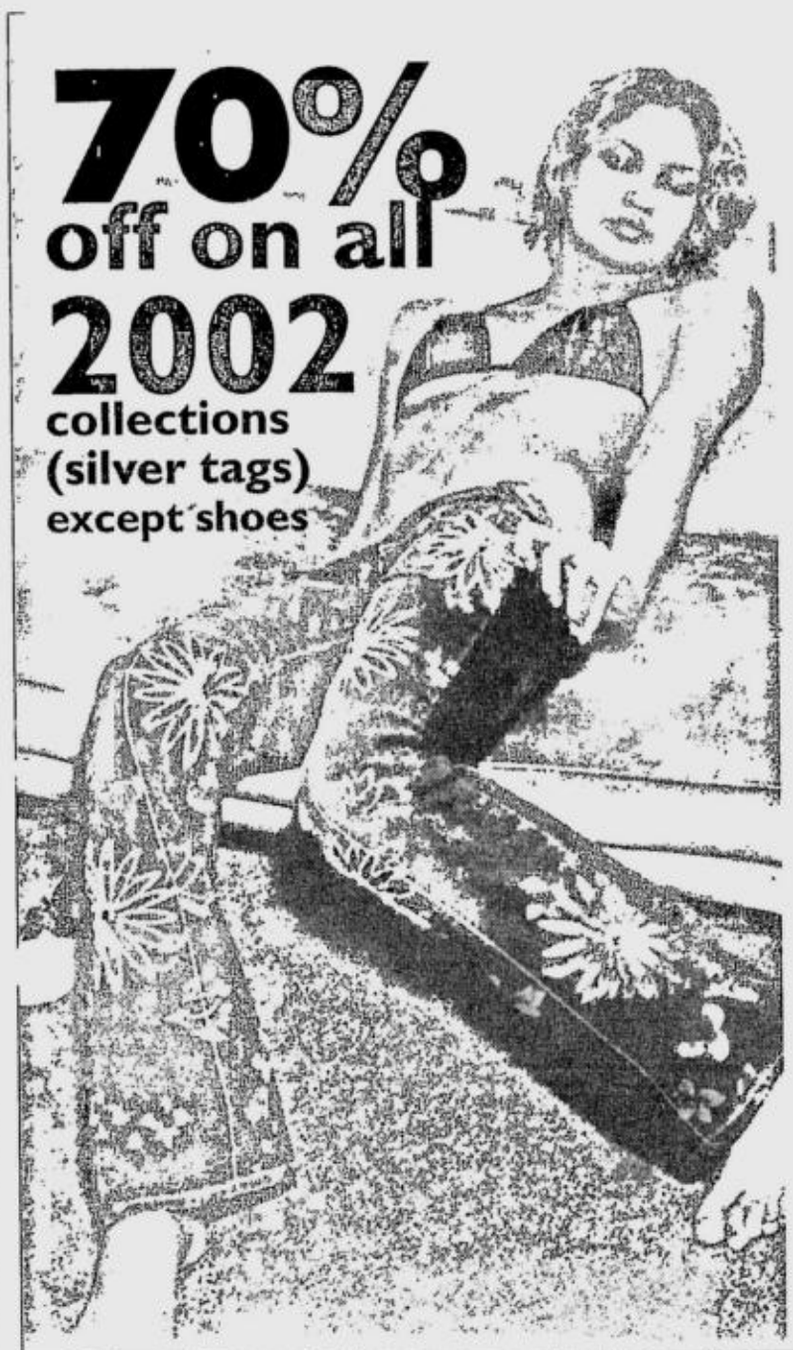
"It appears that the archdioceses of Los Angeles, San Antonio and Masbate . . . all conspired to keep the identity and location of the monsignor from the authorities and the victim," Goldberg told reporters on Thursday.

"We believe Sylvia is not the only nun to have been raped by a priest. We believe this is just the tip of the iceberg."

Only in early 2002, when the priest contacted Arambulo, who is now married to a US citizen here, did she know where her aggressor was.

"During the 1990s we sent him three letters when we found out he was living in Los Angeles and performing the functions of a priest, and told him to cease and desist," said Goldberg.

Although he has not admitted raping Arambulo, Villaroya in June signed an admission of paternity, Goldberg said. *AFP*



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Addicts, not Abus, did it

From page A1

In Jolo, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina also announced that Abdulmuin Sajiron and company were drug addicts.

Carolina said it was Patikul Vice Mayor Esmon Suhurin and other local government officials who told him and Reyes during a meeting with religious leaders at the headquarters of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade Headquarters that Sajiron's group included "heavy users" of *shabu* (methamphethamine hydrochloride).

"So we are not dealing with the Abu Sayyaf here," Carolina said. "We are looking for about 14 addicts whose motive is to raise money to support their vices."

Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commander of the 104th Brigade, said the kidnappers were "not really Abu Sayyaf" but "bandits, lost command."

"This is the same group that abducted (TV reporter) Maan Macapagal (in 2000)," Tolentino said.

The Armed Forces gave civilian officials in Patikul five days to negotiate with the kidnappers and said it was preparing a "killer punch" if the talks failed.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said Patikul officials had been trying to reach the kidnappers' hideout to demand the unconditional release of the remaining four hostages, all women.

But he said the elite US-trained Light Ranger Company was flying to Jolo to back about 6,000 soldiers already fanning out in preparation for a major assault that could come any time starting early next week.

"I would like to emphasize that we're putting more muscle into this operation," Cimatu said.

Augmented forces

In Malacañang, Reyes said that contrary to earlier reports, the military did not cut down on its forces in Sulu.

The reports were based on an official Malacañang announcement early August that President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had ordered Reyes to re-deploy units operating in Basilan and Sulu, the bailiwick of the Abu Sayyaf, to other areas in the country to face the threat posed by the communist-led New People's Army.

But Reyes said the AFP had in fact augmented its forces in Sulu with the deployment of the 55th and 14th Infantry Battalions because known Abu Sayyaf leaders like its chief, Khadaffy Janjalani, were in the province.

He said the military was also attempting to rescue three Indonesians being held by armed men in Sulu.

But in the question-and-answer portion of the briefing, Reyes was forced to admit that even with reinforced troops, "you cannot prevent these things from happening."

"You cannot have airtight, foolproof countermeasures that will prevent incidents of kidnapping like this even if you place the entire (AFP there)," he said. "It's not possible to say a certain deployment of a certain number of troops will guarantee that there will be no kidnapping."

Reyes also took pains to dispute that the six Jehovah's Witnesses were sellers of products by the US cosmetics giant Avon.

"Now I was told that the six . . . were not Avon agents . . . They were peddling herbal medicine, and they've been doing this for some time," he said, adding:

"The only problem was that they went into an area that they were not supposed to get into without proper clearance from the military or the police. That's an area where anybody who's not from there is considered an intruder."

'Don't ask when'

Reyes said he had received instructions from the President to resolve the latest hostage crisis as soon as possible.

"We are hopeful that we will finish this, and don't ask me when," he said.

He also defended the President, who had repeatedly bragged that the government had defeated the Abu Sayyaf.

He said the bandit group once had more than 1,000 fighters but that this number had been reduced to "anywhere from 150 to 200."

"If you go by the figures, the President is correct," Reyes said. "So by any stretch of imagination and definition, that is sufficient degradation of the Abu Sayyaf."

Reyes said the military would ignore the appeal of the hostages' families to stop operations and engage in negotiations.

"We cannot allow these people to go their merry way, holding the hostages as long as they want (with) the government not taking any action," he said. "If we do not operate . . . it's contrary to our mandate and I'm sure the public outcry would be even (louder)."

But he added that the military could not stop negotiations, if there were any.

Tolentino said there would be no letup in military operations even if there were negotiations.

"That (the negotiations) is a separate thing . . . We are going to do our part," he said, adding:

"This is a national issue. We will keep up the pressure. It might produce results."

For the second straight day, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye was evasive regarding the latest hostage crisis.

He even noted that retired general Melchor Rosales, spokesperson of the Department of National Defense, had hoped that Malacañang would be able to "hold off making any statements."

Bunye said what Rosales wanted was for Cimatu to make all the "official statements."

P6 million

Patikul Mayor Hasir Hayudini said Sajiron's group wanted P6 million for the freedom of the remaining hostages.

Hayudini said the ransom demand was relayed to him by a group of negotiators he had tapped to establish communication with the kidnappers.

"Sajiron's mother supposedly told them about the demand, but we still have to verify that," he said.

Gov. Yusop Jikiri urged the military to give the local negotiators time to strike a deal with the kidnappers that could lead to the freedom of the hostages.

But Jikiri said the negotiations should not involve talks about ransom.

Cimatu said the military was giving the negotiators five days, as requested by local officials.

"They gave themselves five days to initiate and convince this group to release the hostages without any condition," Cimatu told reporters in Jolo. "Intensified operations will be implemented as soon as the five-day period lapses."

He said this would also be in line with the President's directive to crush lawless elements in Sulu.

"The directive is going to be implemented in an intensified fashion," he said.

Carolina said the deployment of additional troops was proof that the military was not willing to negotiate if ransom was involved, despite the beheading of two of the captives.

Chance incident

Carolina also said the abduction of the six Jehovah's Witnesses was a "chance incident" because Sajiron's men were thinking they were direct dealers of Avon cosmetics who could give them cash.

"But when they learned that (the six) were merely sales agents and members of the Jehovah's Witnesses, they decided to execute the male captives," he said.

Suhurin said he had earlier repeatedly warned Jehovah's Witnesses from roaming Patikul because the people there were supposedly inhospitable to strangers.

"But they did not listen to my warning. They kept on going to the area despite the threats. They also go there without any coordination with local officials," Suhurin said.

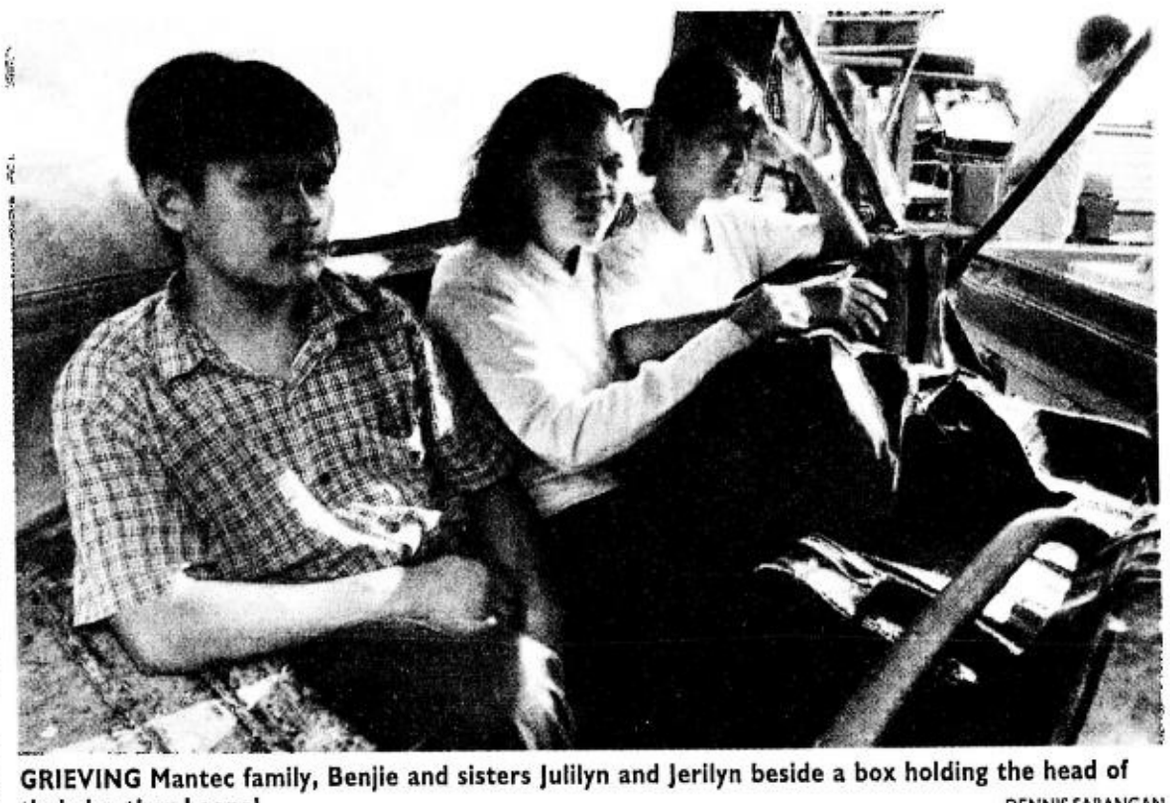
He said that even non-local Muslims would not dare pass Barangay Kaunayan because of the residents' attitude.

Cimatu agreed, saying he knew the people there.

"They object to any presence of religious groups because they consider it a threat to their faith," he said.

Cimatu's first assignment as a lieutenant was in Kaunayan. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and AP***

MORE of the same: Weary soldiers on their way to a war without frontlines in Patikul, Sulu, in pursuit of an enemy who has disappeared among the neighbors of his childhood. DENNIS SABANGAN



GRIEVING Mantec family, Benjie and sisters Julilyn and Jerilyn beside a box holding the head of their brother Leonel. DENNIS SABANGAN

REYES in Malacañang: You cannot have airtight counter measures that will prevent incidents of kidnapping even if you place the entire AFP there. EDWIN BACASMAS

Abu leader tells of talking peace . . .

From page A1

information leading to their arrest.

Money caused rift

Asked what caused his rift with Janjalani and Sabaya, Sali said that it was money that did it. "They earned so much. They alone profited, maybe close to P50 million altogether," Sali said in Filipino.

"*Mukhang pera yang si Sabaya at mahilig pa sa babae. Ako rin mahilig, pero hindi ko pinipilit katulad niya. Sayang ang pagkahandsome ko kung mamimilit lang ako ng babae* (That Sabaya is greedy and he's fond of women. I am fond of women, too, but I don't force myself on them. I'm handsome enough. I don't need to force women)," narrates Sali, 29, comparing his looks with that of Sabaya. "*Kahit itanong ninyo kay Angie (Montealegre), wala akong record na gumagalaw ng hostage* (You can ask Angie Montealegre, I have no record of touching hostages)." Montealgre was one of 20 people abducted by the Abu Sayyaf last year from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

Asked about the agenda of the meeting with the intelligence officers, Sali refused to use the word surrender. He simply wants to help government maintain peace in Basilan.

No surrender

"A mujahideen cannot surrender. That is not allowed by Islam. I only want to help," Sali said.

At one point he said, "If I cannot help, it's better to die fighting."

He further said that, "I want to stay here so that other groups will not make trouble for the people. What I ask for is to give more time to talk with my colleagues. I don't want trouble in Basilan anymore. Too many civilians have been hurt."

Sali admitted that he was part of the blocking force during the Lamitan siege on June 2, 2001 when he and his cohorts were allegedly allowed to escape by the military. The alleged Abu Sayyaf-military collusion was the subject of a congressional inquiry. The Senate has recommended a court martial for three military officers involved in the Lamitan operations.

Sali was tasked to secure the Dos Palmas hostages Kimberly Uy and Francis Ganson. For a time, he also took charge of guarding American hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham. While on guard duty, he was wounded on three occasions in Sumisip, Makiri and Dauatan, the last two in Isabela.

Euphoric

Sali began training to join the Abu Sayyaf Group in 1993. Today as one of the most wanted ASG leaders, he's in a euphoric mode.

"*Ang nararamdaman ko, masaya ako. Sikat ako, sobra pa ako sa artista. Walang artista na nasa buong mundo, palaging makita pag may news. Sa CNN, basta lahat ng press. Yung ibang artista, siguro dito lang sa Pilipinas. Mas sikat pa ako sa kanila at saka ang labanan namin dito, actual, hindi tulad ng sa artista na pang sine lang* (I feel happy. I'm well-known, better than a movie star. I'm in the news worldwide. In CNN and the world press. The actors are only seen here. And our fight here is for real. The actors' action is only for the movies)," Sali said over the phone laughing between sentences.

Sali compares himself with actor Gary Estrada.

"Khadaffy looks like the late actor Miguel Rodriguez, Sabaya looks like the typecast rapist in the movies, what's his name? And I am Gary. I don't know who Hapilon looks like."

He may have called it quits with the other ASG leaders but according to his own assessment, he would still die in the jungle with his armalite.

"But he described himself twice as '*masamang damo' kaya't matagal mamatay* (I'm a bad seed so I'll have a long life)."

Sali has three children, two boys and one girl.

"*Matagal ko na silang di nakikita. Sa tingin mo, magkita pa kaya kami* (I haven't seen them for a long time. Do you think I'll ever see them again)?"

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Priest dared to show proof Sabaya's alive

SENATE defense committee chair Sen. Ramon Magsaysay pays attention to Fr. Cirilo Nacorda.

From page A1

indeed alive.

He said that if the priest's claim is proven correct, "then the government lied to us from the beginning and we should not accept that."

Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the military's Southern Command (Southcom), said the burden of producing Sabaya's body has now shifted to Nacorda.

Nacorda told reporters the other day that Sabaya was last seen in Maluso, Basilan, two weeks ago.

The Southcom had reported that Sabaya, whose real name is Aldam Tilao, was killed on June 21 after US-trained Filipino soldiers clashed with seven armed Abu Sayyaf men on board a speedboat off the coast of Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte. Sabaya's body was never recovered.

Nacorda said that the day after Sabaya was supposedly killed, the Abu Sayyaf spokesperson even attended a *duwaa*, a festivity that locals hold to celebrate something good that has happened. There were several other sightings of Sabaya after that, Nacorda said.

Yesterday, the priest said two of his friends were willing to surface to prove that Sabaya was alive.

Nacorda went to the office of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, to thank the Senate for completing its investigation of the alleged collusion between the Abu Sayyaf bandits and some military men.

During a press briefing in Malacañang yesterday, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said Nacorda was "entitled to his own mistakes."

"I don't think (Sabaya) is alive. Father Nacorda has said so many things. Number one, that there is collusion between the Abu Sayyaf and the military. That is not true," Reyes said.

Reyes was referring to Nacorda's accusation that military officers colluded with the Abu Sayyaf when the bandits were cornered in Lamitan, Basilan, on June 2, 2001 but had managed to slip through a military cordon.

Nacorda was proven correct when Magsaysay's committee and the committee on justice and human rights issued a report recommending court martial proceedings against Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Col. Jovenal Narcise and Maj. Eliseo Campued for having allegedly colluded with the Abu Sayyaf.

Reyes said: "(Nacorda) is now saying that Abu Sabaya is alive. That is not true."

Reyes said he had doubts "about what Father Nacorda is saying," but he refused to say the priest was lying.

"It's heresy to call a priest a liar. And my soul might get burned in hell," Reyes said.

"If Abu Sabaya is still alive, I'm sure he will be itching to be interviewed by one of you. And you'd be itching to get that scoop. The media companies . . . would even pay money to get the exclusive interview," Reyes said.

Sabaya impersonators

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said he was expecting "disinformation" on Sabaya.

"As far as we're concerned, Sabaya is dead. He will never rise again," he added.

Cimatu said it was possible that some people were impersonating Sabaya to boost the bandit group's morale.

Nacorda's information on Sabaya came from third sources, making it doubtful, Carolina pointed out.

"He said there was no malice (in his disclosures) and that he is telling the truth based on what he heard. How can something be the truth if it's only hearsay?" Carolina told the INQUIRER's reporter in Sulu.

He said Nacorda also appeared to be relying on "rumors" from some doctors, former hostages or people associated with Sabaya. These people would later say that they only heard of the news from somewhere.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Nacorda "should stop embellishing, wittingly or unwittingly, Sabaya's image" by claiming that the Abu Sayyaf leader was alive.

"Sabaya is dead. D-E-A-D, dead," Golez said in a text message to defense reporters.

Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division based in Zamboanga del Sur who headed Operation Daybreak that led to Sabaya's reported death, said he could not stop laughing when he learned of Nacorda's claim.

"What I know is that only Christ has the ability to die and then live again," Sua said. "Nacorda is making a Christ out of Sabaya. The difference is that Jesus Christ rose after three days, while Sabaya, according to Nacorda, resurrected a day after he was killed."

Show footage of bandit's death

Sen. Ralph Recto and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said they hoped the military could put an end to reports of Sabaya's "apparitions" by showing the video footage of the bandit's death. The footage of the sea encounter was reportedly taken by a US spy plane.

But Pichay said the tape was classified material and is now kept by the US Central Intelligence Agency.

Both legislators expressed hope that the tape could be declassified.

But Bunye said the government could not show the video because it was a property of the US government.

"I believe (it) has been returned to the US," Bunye said.

He said President Macapagal Arroyo saw the video and was convinced that Sabaya died in the clash at sea.

"I think we have to take the word of the President for it," he said.

"This event was also described by eyewitnesses. We believe this is convincing proof that Abu Sabaya was indeed killed in that encounter," Bunye added.

US believes RP

The US Embassy in Manila stood by the Philippine government in its belief that Sabaya is dead.

"There is no evidence regarding the veracity of that report of (Sabaya's) alleged activities in Basilan. What we believe is the Philippine government's findings on (Sabaya's) death and that is our final word on the matter," said Karen Kelly, embassy spokesperson.

But Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada and Sen. Manuel Villar said the military should not just dismiss Nacorda's claim.

"We've been saying that until they can show us Sabaya's body, the doubt will always be there," Lozada said.

"The military should look into (Nacorda's claim) because it is dangerous if it believes Sabaya is dead but it turns out that he is not," Lozada said.

The militant group Pamalakaya said Golez and Cimatu should consider the possibility that Sabaya was still alive instead of "ganging up" on Nacorda and violently reacting to his disclosure.

Pamalakaya said Nacorda's revelation was "believable and highly credible." ***With reports from Cynthia Balana, Juliet Javellana, Norman Bordadora, Martin Marfil and TJ Burgonio***

Some people are content without craving for the finer things in life. Living with loved ones, having a roof over their heads, and managing a small business... make life complete for people like Maribel Gacusan.

Maribel Gacusan is currently living with her mother in Sapang Palay, Bulacan. The 32-year old homebody is currently content with helping her mother manage a sari-sari store while her sisters have traveled to different parts of the globe to pursue careers and establish their lives elsewhere. An older sister has since married an American and is working as a saleslady in Okinawa, Japan for the past six years. Another sister is a successful seamstress also married to an American and is currently residing in Wisconsin, USA. Both sisters have been sending money to Maribel and her mother through Western Union.

The day Maribel received notice through mail that she won the grand prize in Western Union's "Win a Dream Home" promo was one of the happiest she can recall. "May pambayad na kami sa bahay na tinitirhan namin, " Maribel said with a smile. She continues, "Pinagbibili na kasi itong bahay sa amin ng kamag-anak namin. Ngayon hindi na kami kailangang umalis, napamahal na kasi sa amin ang bahay na 'to."

The "Win a Dream Home Promo" was open to Philippine residents 18 years old and above. Customers participated by availing of a Western Union passbook at participating Western Union outlets. Each transaction at any Western Union location entitled customers to a sticker attached to a page of their passbook. Three stickers in a page entitled the customers to a raffle coupon and a gift of their choice, ranging from caps, wallets, t-shirts or phone books. The raffle served as a passageway to a free house & lot.

Maribel is the 4th lucky winner in the "Win a Dream Home" promo. Maribel and the three previous winners were each entitled to a house and lot or its cash equivalent, thus making the dream of owning a home come true for four families. Maribel plans to use her prize money of P1.12M to purchase the house they are currently renting and to expand their family's sari-sari store business.

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UP's Roman makes media 'last defense'

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines came out with all guns ablaze yesterday in pursuing its eligibility case against Arwind Santos of the Far Eastern University.

Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman, chancellor of UP-Diliman, furnished the INQUIRER a copy of her strongly worded letter questioning the UAAP board's decision to dismiss UP's protest against the FEU rookie.

UAAP TODAY

(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
2 p.m.—FEU vs UP
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UE

The following is Roman's letter yesterday addressed to the UAAP board:

"As protesting party and one of the member universities of the UAAP, we had every intention to keep the discussion of this matter within our University and the UAAP Board. This is the reason why I had not made myself available for media interviews regarding this matter for the past two weeks.

"However, the disregard of the Board of a request I made to be allowed to argue the matter personally before the Board leaves me no recourse but to present UP's case to the media in defense.

Santos not the issue

"First, UP is not against Arwind Santos. Arwind Santos is not the issue here. The Board's decisions are.

"We raised the relevant UAAP rule to question Arwind Santos' eligibility. That rule (Rule 1, par. A, subpar 5) states: 'An incoming varsity athlete is defined as a fresh high school graduate and/or transferee eligible under the UAAP rules. Any such athlete whose name is included in the official roster and/or has played in any commercial league must establish a one-year residency.' We attached a notarized certification given by the CBL attesting to its commercial nature. We also attached notarized true copies of clippings from Freeman newspaper of Cebu mentioning Arwind Santos as part of the Guardo-Pampanga roster and showing the scores he made in a particular game.

"But the UAAP Board has given us shifting interpretations of that rule. It first cited the 'James Yap' case as the right precedent (James Yap had reportedly played for a Chinese commercial league during his rookie year last year and was not questioned regarding his eligibility). Then it said the nature of Santos' CBL participation was "invitational" in nature. Then it reasoned out that Mr. Montinola (Anton, FEU board member) had made a pre-season disclosure of Mr. Santos' participation in the CBL. Most recently the Board cited the phrase 'fresh high school graduate' as an escape clause since Arwind Santos' records show he had graduated from high school in 2001, not 2002. We take note of this ever-shifting process that finds new (and progressively weaker) arguments to support an inherently flawed decision whenever it is subjected to scrutiny and found wanting in legal basis.

"As to the argument of Mr. Montinola that pity should be taken on Mr. Santos who also has a family to support, that is totally beside the point. It is the UAAP Board and its decision to allow an ineligible player to play that is at issue here. Perhaps we can even argue that education and values are the bigger issues here. If we really want Arwind Santos to succeed, we must safeguard him from controversies like this by letting him conform to proper procedures. We must also send our young athletes the correct signal: honesty and fairness begin in school and should be carried through in the adult world of the workplace.

"Both the facts and the applicable rule are clear and not even FEU can dispute them. Mr. Santos is currently an FEU freshman, having graduated from high school in 2001 and not having enrolled in any college or taken any college course anywhere prior to this UAAP season. He played in the Cebu Basketball League, a commercial league, in February-March 2002 without establishing the one-year residency in the UAAP required by the rules. (Certifications attached).

"Regarding our protest letter of Aug. 16, we also have reason to believe that the required number of votes to resolve that protest was not garnered in said meeting in view of the abstention of DLSU. The UAAP Constitution requires a vote of a majority of ALL the member universities, meaning a minimum of five votes. We are requesting a copy of the minutes of the UAAP Board meeting held 20 August 2002 at the Philippine Columbian Association at Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila wherein the Board was supposed to have deliberated on our protest.

"In a letter dated Aug. 21, 2002, UAAP president Celerino Paguia Jr. informed us of the action taken on our formal protest in that meeting 'effectively denying the appeal of UP. The Board treated your Formal Protest as an appeal from the earlier decision of the UAAP Board on Aug. 14, 2002' and 'that the decision of the UAAP Board is final under the provisions of Article VII of the UAAP Constitution and By-Laws.'

Formal appeal

"In a letter-reply we objected to the treatment of our formal protest as an appeal and reserved the right to file a formal appeal under Article VII of the UAAP Constitution. The letter inquiry of Head Coach Allan Gregorio dated 6 Aug. 2002 can, by no stretch of the imagination, be treated as a formal protest required by the rules. Head Coach Gregorio's letter is a request for an inquiry pure and simple and nowhere is a formal protest discernible therein. We therefore reiterate that our Aug. 16, 2002 letter is the one and only protest submitted by UP. This being the case, we are entitled, as a matter of right, to our appeal.

"The actuations of the UAAP Board thus far appears to us that it has become an Old Boys Club without any serious regard for rules, procedures and proper decorum. Given these state of affairs, this protest is perhaps a good wake up call for all of us.

"We make this statement as we still cherish the hope that the matter will be resolved with due regard to the very purpose for which the UAAP was founded: 'to promote amateur sports among students of member universities and to develop the ideals of sportsmanship and fair play."

TIGER Woods hits out of the rough on the fourth hole yesterday during the opening round of the NEC Invitational at Sahalee Country Club in Sammamish, Washington. AP

Goosen co-leader; Woods 3 behind

By Doug Ferguson

SAMMAMISH, Washington—This World Golf Championship certainly lived up to its name yesterday as Retief Goosen of South Africa and Toshi Izawa of Japan each had a 6-under 65 to share the lead in the NEC Invitational.

Davis Love III and Phil Mickelson were at 66 with Darren Clarke of Northern Ireland, while players from five other countries were also right in the mix on a sunny, picturesque Thursday afternoon at Sahalee Country Club.

Tiger Woods, who at times has played like he's from another planet, found the tree-lined course east of Seattle a little more difficult to navigate than Firestone, where he has won the last three NEC Invitationals.

Still, Woods overcame a double bogey on the 17th hole to post a 3-under 68, a good start in his bid to become the first player since Walter Hagen at the PGA Championship (1924-27) to win the same tournament four years in a row.

The double bogey came from a 6-iron that came up short and went into the pond. Asked what made him so upset, Woods paused and replied, "The ball ended up in the water."

Goosen and Izawa had no such problems.

Despite the $5 million purse and a world-class field of 78 players, the tournament had the feel of a holiday. The crowds were not quite as large or boisterous as the PGA Championship last week, and the pressure wasn't as great.

Better yet for Goosen and Izawa, they managed to shake off their shabby weekend at Hazeltine (79-75 for Goosen, 75-78 for Izawa).

"It was very relaxing, and I played a practice round and started shooting the ball good," Izawa said. "Plus, there's no cut in the tournament, so I was really relaxed playing."

He finished strong, with birdies on two of his last three holes from 5 feet.

Goosen, the U.S. Open champion last year who hasn't been in serious contention since finishing second to Woods in the Masters, had a bogey-free round that included an eagle on the par-5 second hole with a 4-iron to 10 feet.

This is one course where length doesn't matter.

While Woods hit only one driver and Mickelson didn't hit many more than that, Goosen was reaching for the driver with far more frequency.

"It was probably eight times," he said.

It was definitely more than one of his playing partners, John Daly. Goosen knows this because Daly didn't even carry a driver for Sahalee, although it didn't help in a round of 73.

Goosen's round was all about putting.

"I've worked quite hard on my putting the last couple of days, trying to working something out, and today I seemed to stroke it a lot better," he said. "There were a lot of birdie chances out there. It was nice to shoot 6 under, and it wasn't like I really had to work hard for it."

Hard work was Hazeltine, the final major championship of the year.

About 60 percent of the field - 47 of 78 players - managed to shoot par or better on a Sahalee course with little wind and soft greens, but still plenty of Douglas Firs and cedar trees to get in the way.

"PGA practice rounds, we were hoping to make two or three birdies," Love said. "It showed us that there were some good scores out there. But I think as the week goes on, it will get tougher, and the competition will get tougher."

Some of that competition figures to come from Woods, the only player whose name is on the NEC Invitational trophy.

He didn't overpower Sahalee, opting for 2-irons and 3-woods off the tee.

"I played solid all day," Woods said. "I just had one bad swing on 17, and a couple of bad putts. Just one of those things."

Even Mickelson had to scale back. Hopeful of hitting more drivers and attacking the course, he found the course more dry and firm—and the driver stayed in the bag.

"It went from driver to 3-wood, from 3-wood to 2-iron, from 2-iron to a 3- or 4-iron," he said after his bogey-free round of 66. *AP*

First Round scores:

Toshi Izawa	31-34-65
Retief Goosen	32-33-65
Davis Love III	34-32-66
Phil Mickelson	32-34-66
Darren Clarke	32-34-66
Justin Rose	35-32-67
Steve Lowery	34-33-67
Kenny Perry	33-34-67
Fred Funk	34-34-68
Thomas Bjorn	32-36-68
Rocco Mediate	32-36-68
Lee Westwood	36-32-68
Chris DiMarco	34-34-68
Sergio Garcia	31-37-68
Vijay Singh	34-34-68
Matt Gogel	36-32-68
Craig Perks	34-34-68
Paul Azinger	32-36-68
Tiger Woods	32-36-68
Greg Norman	32-37-69
David Toms	37-32-69
Mike Weir	34-35-69

Potenciano raring to race

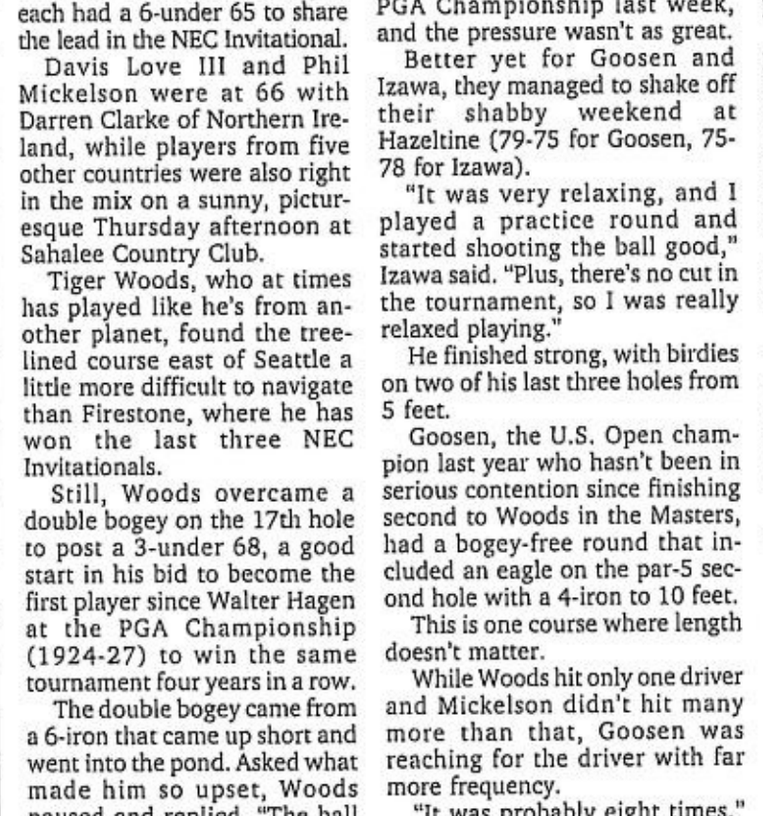
PATTAYA, Thailand—The Zed-San Miguel Beer-MP Turbo Team of lone Filipino driver Mike Potenciano is all set to take on the best in the AF 2000 Championship tomorrow here.

"We are in high spirits that we'll do well in this race," said Potenciano two days before the race. "We have a new engine in the car and it feels strong. Another plus is that no one really knows this track well and I believe we can be on pace right away."

The team's engine tightened up in Sepang, Malaysia, last month after taking a spectacular pole position in the rain.

The weather here might play in the hands of the team because rains fell during the practice sessions.

Siodina fires 2-over-par 74, trails by 6



HINGIS CONQUEROR

Russia's Anastasia Myskina is the new toast of the Pilot Pen tennis tournament after beating Martina Hingis yesterday, 6-7 (2), 6-4, 6-0, in New Haven, Connecticut. Myskina had earlier beaten fourth-seeded Justine Henin, 7-6, 6-2. On the homefront, 52 matches will kick off the Philta Classic for age-group tournaments today at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center beginning at 9 a.m. Ateneo's Christian Canlas heads the list in the boys 14 and under division.

MARIO Siodina bucked first-day jitters yesterday to score a 2-over-par 74 in the first round of the Fancl Seniors Golf Classic at the Susono Country Club in Mt. Fuji, Japan.

The debuting Filipino, playing on Japanese soil for the first time, was six strokes behind leader H. Ishii (68) in the $600,000 tournament bankrolled by K. Ikemori, president of Fancl.

Siodina was the first ever Filipino to be invited to the annual Classic, considered as Asia's richest seniors golf event.

He was going great guns until he mishit his drive on the 15th following a loose grip, leading to a bogey.

Siodina was tied with 13 others in the tournament offering the champion $150,000.

It rained the whole day but that did not prevent 11 players to break par, including Australian Terry Gale who had a 70.

Siodina tees off at 8:04 today in the company of N. Sugai, the British Seniors champion, and Y. Yamamoto, a many-time winner of the Fancl Classic.

His flightmates also scored similar 74s. ***Al S. Mendoza***

Coseteng seeks sweep in Subic

CROWD favorite and two-time Driver of the Year Jody Coseteng aims to bounce back and deliver another big win for the Caltex Havoline-Autoplus-Red Horse Racing Team as the 2002 SVI Grand Prix stages Rounds 9-10 today at the upgraded Subic International Raceway.

Another sweep by Coseteng will further firm up his bid for a fourth straight SVI Super Salon crown. His defeat in the last leg also lessened the handicap weight by a few pounds, making the car lighter and easier to maneuver.

"Circuit racing is all about man and his machine. Aside from Jody's precision driving, we also have to consider all other variables like the car set-up. The competition stepped up, but we are confident Jody and the team can deliver the goods," said Paul Familara, Caltex Philippines Product Category Manager for Lubricants Sales and Marketing.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY In 1990, Gerard Cantada shot a 71 to bag his third straight 14-under crown in the 1990 Hong Kong Juniors Open golf championships at the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club links.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: U.S. Amateur Open Golf Championship, Quarterfinals at 7 a.m. (r - 6 p.m.) on ESPN

LPGA Wendy's Championship for Children, Second Round at 11 a.m. on Star Sports

'Alay sa Kawal Racing Festival' on at San Lazaro

LOCAL horse racing pays tribute to the country's heroic soldiers as the Alay sa Kawal Foundation Inc. (ASKFI), in cooperation with the Manila Jockey club Inc. (MJCI), jointly spearhead the staging of the inaugural "Alay sa Kawal Racing Festival" today and tomorrow at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

More than P3.4 million in prizes have been earmarked by MJCI for the two-day racefest, which is geared toward raising funds in support of the projects undertaken by the ASK Foundation to benefit the underprivileged members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"We are honored to provide the Alay sa Kawal Foundation with an innovative fund-raising mechanism to support its programs intended to benefit and alleviate the plight of our common soldiers, defender of our freedom and indispensable allies in the noble task of nation-building" said MJCI President and ASKFI Trustee, Alfonso R. Reyno Jr.

Defense Secretary and former AFP chief Angelo T. Reyes heads the festival's Organizing Committee and will be the Guest of Honor for the blue-ribbon affair.

Highlight of the two-day racing festival is the featured running of the Pagcor and Petron Stakes Races—Alay sa Kawal Cup, a pair of P330,000-guaranteed event that has lured the participation of some of the country's top gallopers.

Recent MJCI Founders' Cup winner Batangas Entry heads the stellar cast of protagonists competing in Pagcor Stakes Race and will be challenged by last year's champion filly Sky Hawk for the 1,500-meter event sponsored by Pagcor and Casino Filipino. Also in contention for the featured marquee race are noted speedballs Hazmoore, Ariba King and Bull Rider, seasoned handicapper Master Ijhay and US-bred import Sunny Contender

Alabang prevails

UNITED Alabang Kids stunned Alvin O's Arriba FC, 1-0, and then went on to beat TLC's Fighting Blue Sharks, 1-0, to capture the OK Cup (Our Kids Futbol Cup) recently at the Ayala Alabang's Cuenca Park. Jolo Durian scored the marginal goal for the Alabang booters.

Libel case against Puyat dismissed

TWO-TIME Fiba (International Basketball Federation) president Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II has scored a personal triumph when the libel complaint filed against him by ABC (Asian Basketball Confederation) head Carl Men Ky Ching was recently dismissed by the Makati City prosecution office.

Ching, represented by lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan, based his complaint on a letter sent by Puyat to Fiba-Oceania president Alistair Ramsey and other Fiba Central Board members on March 8, 2002, claiming (Puyat's) letter was motivated by malice, ill will and evident bad faith.

But in a two-page resolution penned by Prosecutor Alexander G. Bagaoisan and approved by Senior State Prosecutor Leo B. Dacera III on July 22, 2002, the complaint was dismissed because the elements of "publication and malice" have not been established.

According to the resolution, "the Philippine Courts don't have jurisdiction in Australia where the letter was sent, (it) does not appear to be libelous and that respondent (Puyat) wrote (it) out of his moral and social duty to Fiba of which he is currently honorary president, not to mention that he previously served as president for eight years."

The resolution also stressed: "As correctly pointed out by (Puyat), the subject letter qualifies as a privileged communication under Article 384 of the Revised Penal Code."

"This proves that as long as you tell the truth, you have nothing to fear because our justice system works," Puyat said of the libel suit's dismissal.

In his letter, Puyat alleged that Ching, who is reportedly seeking the Fiba presidency, "is the biggest threat to the stability of the Fiba."

"He is president of ABC but his alleged links to the HK Triad have led to his banning from two important international events—the World Basketball Championships in Toronto, Canada in 1994 and the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney," Puyat wrote.

Pinay cue artists battle Singaporeans

THE MUCH-AWAITED two-day Singapore-Philippines Women's Cue Challenge unwraps today at the Orosa Atrium of Robinsons Place Manila with Mayor Lito Atienza and top sports officials as guests of honor.

Mayor Atienza will welcome the participants while Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso L. Dayrit and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain will give inspirational temarks during the 10:30 a.m. ceremonials.

Singapore will be bannered by veteran international campaigners Amy Hoe, Charlene Chai, Eunice Tang, Jef Tan, Ong Chew Hoon and Ho Feng Xia while the Philippines will field Rubilen Amit, Johanna Dee, Sheila dela Cruz, Magda Say, Nina Angeles and Iris Ranola.

The Singaporeans, who arrived yesterday, and the Filipinos will slug it out in the one-rack 36 round-robin matches in today's 8-ball team competition. Tomorrow, they will figure in the race-to-five 9-ball singles event.

The dual meet kicks off the program of the newly organized Philippine Women Players on Cue led by president Bong Coo, vice president Tetchie Remondeulaz, treasurer Evelyn Reyes, auditor Nancy Paguio, Rhea Adam, Lou Bontogon and Norma Gamit.

The event is sponsored by Pagcor, PSC, Brunswick, Bong Coo Sports Products Inc., Aramith, Simonis, Robinsons Place Manila, Coca-Cola, Hoopwear, Trapik.com, Grilla, Stars Billiard Hall, Express Card Business Station and Le Soleil de Boracay.

Coach Boyet Asonto's Filipino cue artists are confident of giving their more experienced rivals "a run for their money."

PWPC, which is affiliated with the Billiards and Snookers Congress of the Philippines, aims to develop and promote women's billiards since a women's 9-ball singles event has been included in the 2006 Asian Games program in Qatar.

"Who knows, we might be able to produce someday a player in the mold of either Efren (Reyes) or Django (Bustamante)," said Ms Coo, a former world bowling champion and the winner of the most number of Asian Games golds among Filipino athletes.

Pals, Thunder win

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
3:45 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel
5:45 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Alaska

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—Talk N Text kept its poise intact, deflecting Alaska's final surge to post a hard-earned 82-78 victory at the start of their best-of-five semifinal series in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Ynares Center here.

Jerald Honeycutt bailed the Phone Pals out of trouble as he drilled in 5 crucial points, including a game-clinching triple, down the stretch that stopped the rampaging Aces on their tracks.

Red Bull also took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five semifinal series with a heartstopping 72-68 win over San Miguel Beer.

Prior to Honeycutt's heroic deeds, the Aces were all poised to give the Phone Pals a run for their money as they dropped a 12-point bomb that reduced the deficit, 71-75, less than 4 minutes left.

But the 6-foot-8 Honeycutt was quick on his feet, eluding the sticky defense of the 7-foot EJ Feihl and delivering the telling blows on the Aces.

"Our imports carried us but the locals also played a big role. They (Aces) killed us in the first half and we were just lucky to wear them down in the final minutes," said Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno.

Pete Mickeal, who suffered a bum stomach a few hours before the game, blended perfectly well with Honeycutt and was instrumental when the Phone Pals began to cut loose in the third period.

Honeycutt had 26 points on top of 7 rebounds and 3 assists while Mickeal added 25 points and 9 rebounds for the Phone Pals, who barged into the semis after beating No. 2 Sta. Lucia Realty twice in the quarterfinals.

"I expect this series to extend to a Game 5. It's gonna be a war out there," said Bayno, who also got unbelievable acts from Donbel Belano, Kenny Evans and Elmer Lago.

The scores:

TALK N TEXT 82—Honeycutt 26, Mickeal 25, Pablo 8, Lago 8, Belano 6, Demape 5, Telan 4, Fran 0, Evans 0.

ALASKA 78—Williams 23, Carrawell 18, Feihl 9, Arigo 6, Lastimosa 6, Allado 6, Duat 6, Ordonio 4, Noble 0, Santos 0, Peek 0.

Quarters: 16-23, 43-38, 69-55, 82-78.

Benilde eyes 5th triumph

COLLEGE of St. Benilde and Miriam College seek to keep their records unblemished when they tackle separate opponents today in the 33rd WNCAA-adidas basketball tournament at the St. Scholastica's Gym.

The defending champions Lady Blazers go for their fifth straight victory versus the Sienna College Red Lilies at 1:30 p.m., while the Miriam College Golden Phoenix tackle the Lyceum Lady Pirates at 12 noon. Lyceum is sporting a 3-1 record.

CSB's latest victim was the University of Assumption-Pampanga, 67-34, last Sunday.

SPORTSWATCH

Judokas place 2nd in Vietnam

ASIAN Games-bound Aisa Marie Ano won the gold in the -78 kg category, while Franco Teves ruled the 55-kg event as the Philippines placed second overall in the 7th Asean judo championship in Phan Dinh Phung Indoor Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The Philippines also won four silvers through the efforts of Samson Bernales (-66 kg), Esty Gay Liwanen (-63 kg), Karen Ann Solomon (-70 kg) and Khamila Rosales in the + 78 kg. The bronze medalists were Gilbert Ramirez (-73 kg), Helen Dawa (-48 kg) and Rezil Rosalejos (-48 kg).Teves, Bernales, Dawa and Liwanen each won the bronze in the male and female divisions in kata competitions. Vietnam, host of the 2003 SEA Games, won the overall championship with 9 golds, 3 silvers and 3 bronzes.

Django defeats Canadian; Bata falls

BUSTAMANTE

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante defeated Edwin Montel, a Filipino from Canada, yesterday to advance to the semifinals of Gabriel's Las Vegas Invitational 9-ball tournament in Nevada. Efren "Bata" Reyes, who defeated Ian Costello, 3-0, in the round of 16, dropped out of the tourney after losing, 1-3, to Allen Hopkins in the quarterfinals. Bustamante meets former US Open champion Rodeny Morris and Hopkins takes on Ralf Souquet of Germany in the semifinals today. Souquet entered the semis by beating Filipino Rodolfo Luat, 3-0.

Milo Checkmate elims tomorrow

THE FIRST elimination series for members of the 2003 US-bound Checkmate team starts tomorrow at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. Open to all Milo Checkmate kids, the tournament is divided into three age-groups: 10 and under, 12 and under and juniors (13-18 years). The tournament, which starts at 10 a.m., will use the five-round Swiss system and time control of 90 minutes per player in selecting the top three winners in each group who will advance to the semifinals scheduled in December. Participants are advised to register as early as 9 a.m. at the venue or call MCC at 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Escrima Liga fencing starts

MORE than 300 fencers from 15 schools will compete in the 2nd Escrima Liga National Inter-School fencing championships this weekend at the PSC Fencing Hall in Philsports, Pasig. Marilee Estampador is tournament director of this two-day event organized by Team Ventures. Escrima Liga is an outreach program in developing school-based talents. Favored to contest the overall trophy are University of the Philippines, Ateneo and University of Santo Tomas.

Enertone backs Calabarzon derby

THE CALABARZON Breeders Club gets a big boost following the support given by Enertone, the first ready-mixed maintenance feeds from Thunderbird. The Calabarzon group will stage the Calabarzon Stag Master Breeders Circuit Derby. "We are inspired by the support of Thunderbird, particularly Enertone with this ambitious project. This is a big boost for us," said Fred Katigbak, the group's chief. The circuit is composed of five separate 4-stag derbies which will be held on Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Oct. 12, Oct. 19 and Oct. 26. Call 0917-5274056 or 0916-4031741 for inquiries. All entered Stags must be farm-screened and wing-banded by the CBC's authorized screening committee not later than June 30.

Leongson picked motocross top bet

ALL eyes will be on multi-titled motocross champion Ernie Leongson and the Shell-Yamaha Racing Team when the WG&A Super Ferry Motocross Series resumes with the sixth and penultimate leg in Cagayan de Oro City this weekend.

Leongson, who won four of the previous five rounds with surprising ease, tries to resume his winning ways and move even closer to the overall championship and the prestigious "Rider of the Year" trophy in the seven-part series organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. and Kabataang Iwas sa Droga Tulong ng Sports (KIDS).

The veteran campaigner from Taytay, Rizal, who made the country proud with his victories in the Smokin Wheel Supercross Championship in Guam last April and the Verizon Motocross Challenge in Saipan last month, has a five-leg aggregate of 184 points against 149 points of teammate Jovie Saulog.

"Malaki na ang tsansa ko. I just have to be a little more careful now," said Leongson, who needs only to finish safely in the final two legs to formalize his claim to the championship.

Monching banners Subic Grand Prix

THE THREE-WAY battle among defending champion Monching Gutierrez of Dickies-MP Turbo, Don Pastor of Team TEC and Oscar Aguilar of Caltex-Beefeater will be highlighted anew in the ninth and 10th rounds of the 2002 SVI-Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway this weekend.

Gutierrez tries to widen his lead in the overall standings, but Pastor and Aguilar are expected to spoil his bid and tighten the race for top honors in the SVI Challenge Cup.

The well-known actor-sportsman, who bagged the overall title last year, has an eight-leg score of 53 points based on five first-place finishes in the previous months. He begged off from participation in the first two rounds due to prior commitments, but seized the momentum right after the round.

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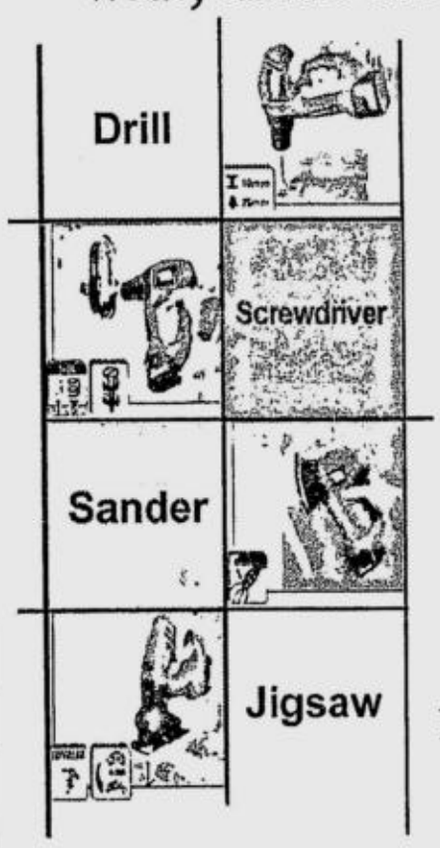

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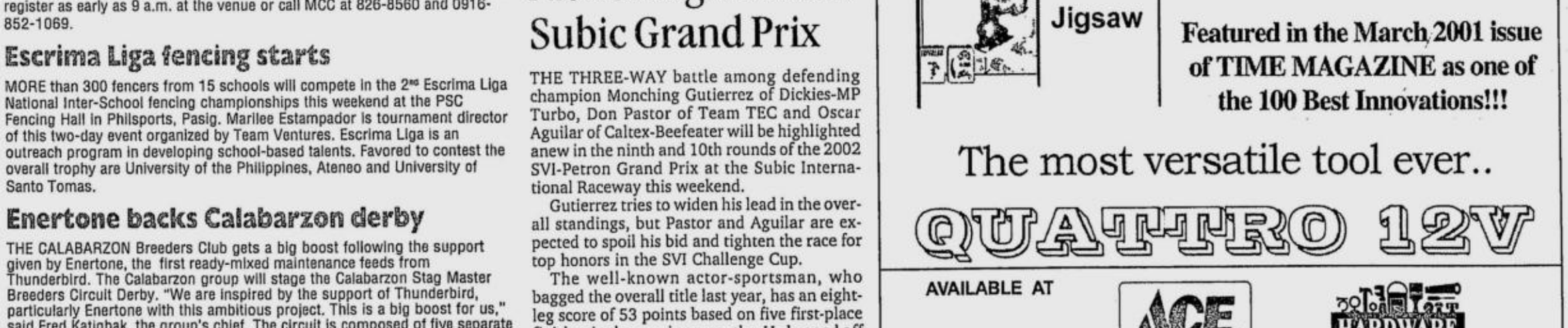

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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Letran, Mapua stay alive

GAMES MONDAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Mapua vs PCU (Jrs/Srs)
3:30 p.m.— SSC vs SBC (Jrs/Srs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

NOT EVEN the presence of two of its legendary sons could save San Beda College from plunging deeper into the cellar.

Yesterday, basketball Hall of Famer Loreto "Bonnie" Carbonell, the ace forward of the 1955 Red Lions quintet that won the much-coveted Zamora trophy, and bemedalled Pablo Cuna watched in disbelief as San Beda bowed to rival Letran, 67-54, in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Zamora trophy has been reserved to a team that wins 3 straight NCAA titles. It was retired in 1955 after the Lions' third straight victory that year.

The loss dropped Red Lions to 1-10, tying them with University of Perpetual Help-Rizal in that humiliating position. Perpetual lost to Mapua, 85-82, in yesterday's second game.

"We've been losing terribly, but the Bedan spirit lives on," said the 70-year-old Carbonell. With Carlos "The Great Difference" Loyzaga and Cesar "Spinning J" Jota as his teammate, Carbonell bannered the Red Lions to victory over the Frank Rabat/Tiny Literal-led Ateneo Blue Eagles in the 1955 NCAA finals.

Carbonell and Cuna, who earlier won two championship rings playing for the Mendiola-based team, gave the Red Lions inspirational talk at the dugout before the start of the game.

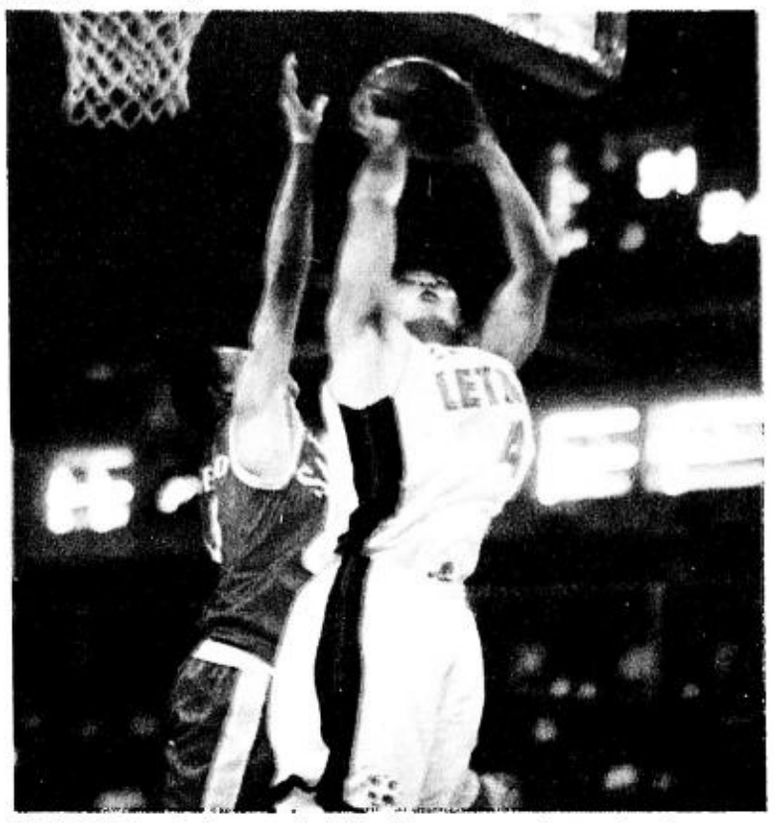
San Beda replied with gusto, taking the early lead, 16-5, before falling into a maze of errors in the second half that allowed the Knights to come back.

Letran and Mapua improved to 5-6.

LETRAN 67—Enrile 20, Aldave 10, Bautista 6, Sta. Cruz 6, Santos 4, Syhongpan 3, Anabo 3, Reyes 3, Sillona 3, Rodriguez 0.

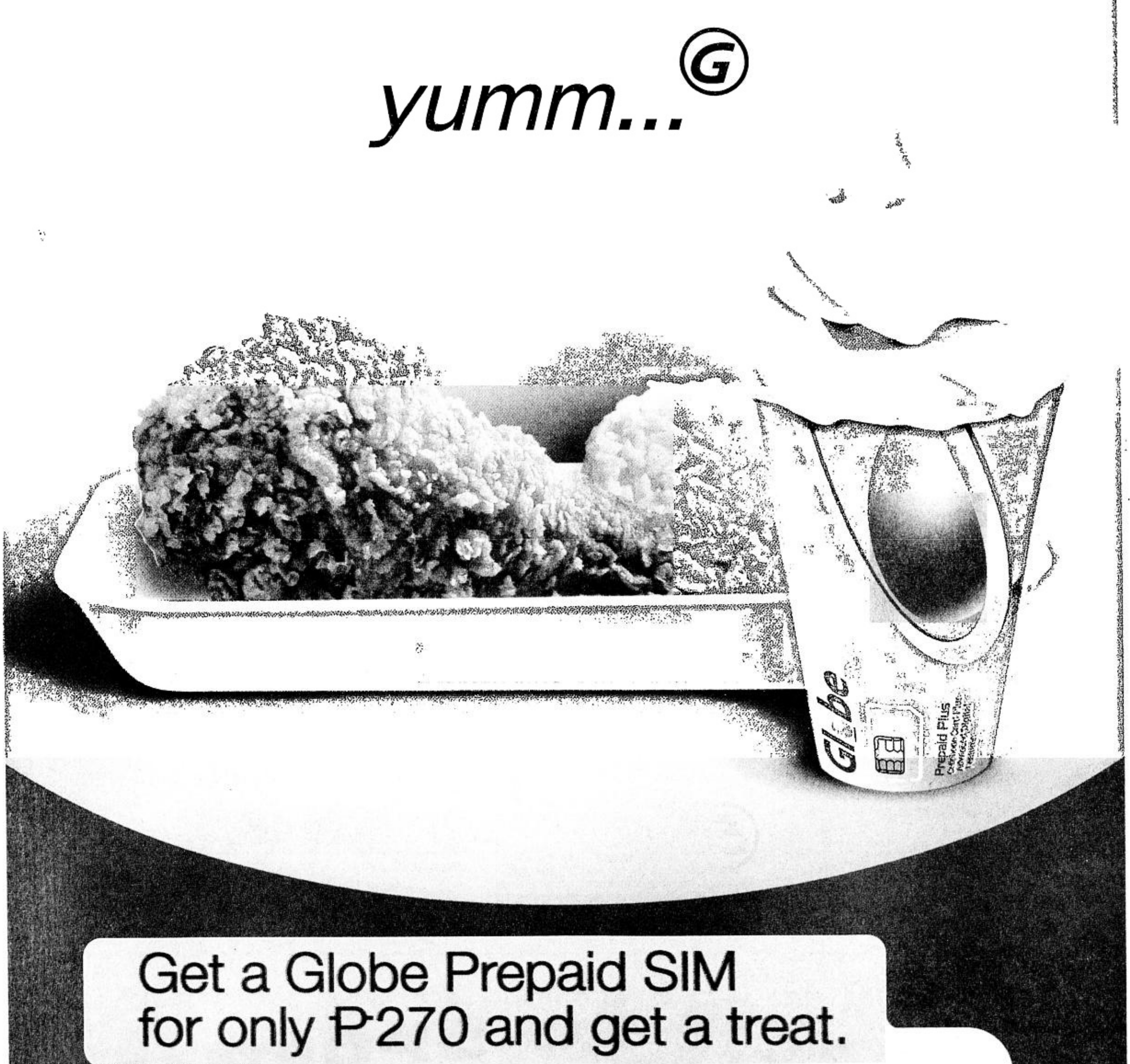
SAN BEDA 54—Cordero 20, Bombeo 8, Baldivinia 7, Hudencial 7, Paterno 5, Velasco 2, Tolentino 2, Wong 2, Ong 1, Angeles 0.

Quarters: 8-16, 31-32, 48-42, 67-54.



LETRAN's Ren Syhongpan (with ball) attempts a shot against San Beda's Jeff Bombeo. The Knights won, 67-54. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

yumm...G



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LOOSE BITS

Vendors will strike back, MMDA warned

By Christian V. Esguerra, Leila B. Salaverria and Agnes E. Donato

"VIOLENCE will erupt. (MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando) can't prevent the vendors from retaliating, especially when his men start spraying kerosene on (their) goods."

The warning was made by Carmen "Nanay Mameng" Deunida, the diminutive 74-year-old woman who became a crowd favorite because of her fiery speeches during anti-Estrada rallies.

Deunida, speaking as president of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap, warned that vendors would instigate violence if the MMDA chair carried out his plan to "mercilessly" clear the metropolis of illegal obstructions.

Vendors had labeled Fernando "Hitler" because of his resolve to clear sidewalks of all obstructions, including vendors, to help improve traffic in Metro Manila.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday expressed her support for Fernando and his drive.

Fernando yesterday repeated he would definitely spray kerosene on vendors' goods to keep the vendors permanently off the streets.

"*Ubusan lang ng puhunan yan*" (It's only a matter of who runs out of money first) he told the INQUIRER.

MMDA personnel will regularly conduct clearing operations to ensure that vendors will not return to the streets, he said.

"I don't want to detail people in different areas because I would just expose them to danger," he said. "*Matagal na ang isang linggo na hindi sila masasaksak*" (It wouldn't take a week before someone gets stabbed).

Deunida said the MMDA should first give the vendors ample space in market places before forcing them off the sidewalks.

Fernando thanked the President for urging vendors to vacate the sidewalks and for saying that the MMDA has the right to use "extreme force" to enforce the law against illegal obstructions.

But the militant group Sanlakas denounced Malacanang's show of support, saying it reeked of "damage control."

Don Pangan of Sanlakas said: "Malacanang should be focusing instead on the rift between the MMDA and the vendors."

He said Sanlakas plans to hold a vendors' summit soon to discuss their problems and to complain about Fernando to the Commission on Human Rights.

Yesterday morning, about 500 Fernando supporters led by Fernando's wife, Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando, picketed the University of the Philippines Diliman chapel to denounce running priest Fr. Robert Reyes, who has been defending the vendors.

The demonstrators called Reyes "paring demonyo," "terorista," "komunista" and "anarkista."

Reyes came out of his office to observe the rally, but he refused to have a dialogue with the demonstrators.

However, towards the end of the program, he told them he wanted to speak with the MMDA chair. "We love you, Father Robert!" the demonstrators shouted.

"Some of the names they called me were really below the belt," Reyes said. "It's really sad.

"Why are they criminalizing the people and not just their activity?" he said of MMDA's drive. "I myself do not support street vending, but I don't think street vendors should be treated harshly."

FERNANDO

Murder suspect fails to watch 'Magandang Tanghali, Bayan'

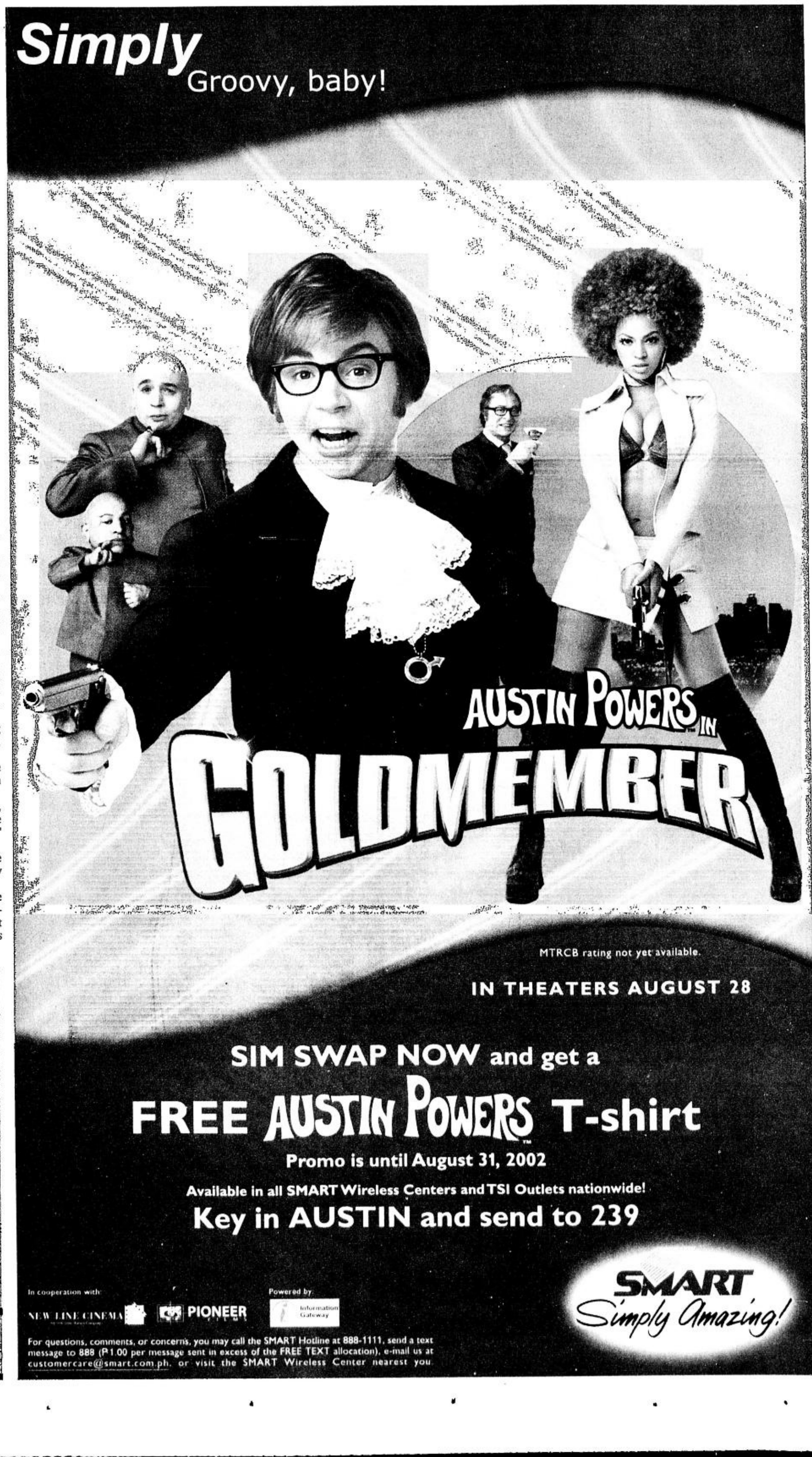
By Alcuin Papa

POLICE waited yesterday morning at the ABS-CBN, closely watching the people who were lining up to be in "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan." When Gerard Magbiray, 23, joined the queue, police promptly arrested him, not because he was suspected of involvement in cheating in the show's game portion but because he is one of four suspects in the recent murder of one Joel Villareal in Malabon.

The mother of the murder victim had earlier informed Malabon and Quezon City police that Magbiray was trying to get into the network compound through the audience entrance on Sgt. Esguerra Street to watch "MTB" live. Magbiray did show up at about 9:30 a.m. and police arrested him.

The other suspects in the Villareal murder were identified as Gerard's brothers Giovanni and Francis and their neighbor Jay Santos.

Magbiray's arrest was made with a warrant issued by the Malabon Regional Trial Court.



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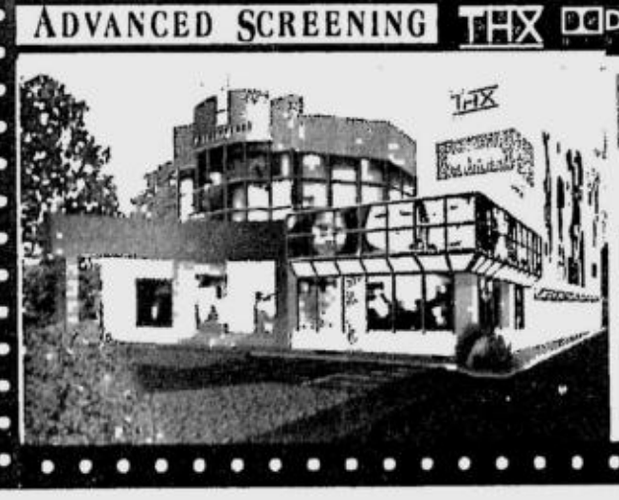
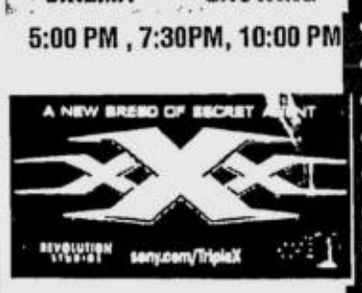
3 (DTS)	ABOUT A BOY
4	SORORITY BOYS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING — THX — DOLBY — dts — SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING
5:00 PM , 7:30PM, 10:00 PM



SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3	TRIPLE X
4	LILO & STITCH
5	INSOMNIA
6	GAMITAN
7	SWEETEST THING
8	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	GAMITAN
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	INSOMNIA
4	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	TRIPLE X
6	BIGLANG LIKO
7	LILO & STITCH
8	SWEETEST THING
9	UNFAITHFUL
10	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	INSOMNIA
2	HUMAN EATER
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	TRIPLE X
5	LILO & STITCH
6	GAMITAN
7	TRIPLE X
8	UNFAITHFUL
9	D' URAGONS
10	SWEETEST THING
11	SEX & ZEN
12	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY MANILA
5238240

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	TRIPLE X
3	SWEETEST THING
4	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	INSOMNIA
6	TRIPLE X
7	GAMITAN
8	8 LEGGED FREAKS
9	GAMITAN
10	SEX & ZEN
11	KILLING ME SOFTLY
12	LILO & STITCH

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	TRIPLE X
2	LILO & STITCH
3	TRIPLE X
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
6	INSOMNIA
7	SWEETEST THING
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY
9	GAMITAN
10	TRIPLE X
11	GAMITAN
12	SEX & ZEN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	LILO & STITCH
2	TRIPLE X
3	GAMITAN
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	INSOMNIA
6	KILLING ME SOFTLY
7	SWEETEST THING
8	TRIPLE X

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
2	LILO & STITCH
3	TRIPLE X
4	INSOMNIA
5	KILLING ME SOFTLY
6	WINDTALKERS
7	GAMITAN
8	TRIPLE X
9	UNFAITHFUL
10	SWEETEST THING

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	TRIPLE X
3	LILO & STITCH
4	GAMITAN
5	BIGLANG LIKO
6	ORANGE COUNTY
7	STUART LITTLE 2
8	HIGH CRIMES

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	CLOSED
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	TRIPLE X
5	GAMITAN
6	LILO & STITCH
7	CLOSED
8	MEGIDDO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	TRIPLE X
2	ABOUT A BOY
3	LILO & STITCH
4	SWEETEST THING
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	GAMITAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	GAMITAN
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	TRIPLE X
4	LILO & STITCH

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3	INSOMNIA
4	D' URAGONS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	TRIPLE X
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	LILO & STITCH
4	GAMITAN
5	POWERPUFF GIRLS
6	STUART LITTLE 2

SM BICUTAN

1	
2	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
3	
4	

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
2	
3	
4	

THE PODIUM CINEMA

633-8976

TRIPLE X
10:10 FS/10:30 MF/1:00/3:30/6:00/8:30/
10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

LILO & STITCH
11:00 FS/11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/
9:05/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:25 END

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1 THX	TRIPLE X
2	TRIPLE X
3	THE SWEETEST THING
4	INSOMIA
5	GAMITAN
6	UNFAITHFUL
7	SEX-ZEN/HUMAN EATER
8	LILO & STITCH
9	KILLING ME SOFTLY
10	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

Ermita 536-7809-12

1	TRIPLE X
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	GAMITAN
6	LILO & STITCH
7	INSOMIA

Metro East - Marcos hway 682-8193 / 8280

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	THE SWEETEST THING
3	MORE ANTS.../SEX-ZEN
4	LILO & STITCH
5	TRIPLE X
6	INSOMIA
7	GAMITAN
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY

Novaliches 935-3229-30

1	SEX-ZEN/KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	TRIPLE X
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	LILIO & STITCH
6	INSOMIA
7	UNFAITHFUL
8	GAMITAN

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

1	TRIPLE X
2	THE SWEETEST THING
3	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	INSOMIA
5	GAMITAN
6	LILO & STITCH

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

1	TRIPLE X
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	LILO & STITCH
4	HIGH CRIMES
5	THE URAGONS
6	ABOUT A BOY

Iloilo 336-8077-78

1	TRIPLE X
2	STUART LITTLE
3	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4	ABOUT A BOY
5	LILO & STITCH
6	ANG GALING-GALING/GAMITAN

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp. 875-1927 / 961-5318 / 5270

1	ABOUT A BOY
2	GAMITAN
3	UNFAITHFUL
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	TRIPLE X
6	

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http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536-7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Pregnant woman mauled to death

STEVEDORE Rolando S. Fabila, 39, has been accused of mauling to death his wife, who was five months pregnant.

Eliodora S. Fabila, 39, of Barangay 649 Block 6, Bagong Lupa, Baseco, Port Area, Manila, died at the Ospital ng Maynila at around noon Thursday, said Athos de Quiros, of the Western Police District.

She had many bruises on her "lower extremeties," De Quiros said.

He said the beating happened at around 12 p.m. inside the victim's house. P. Tubeza

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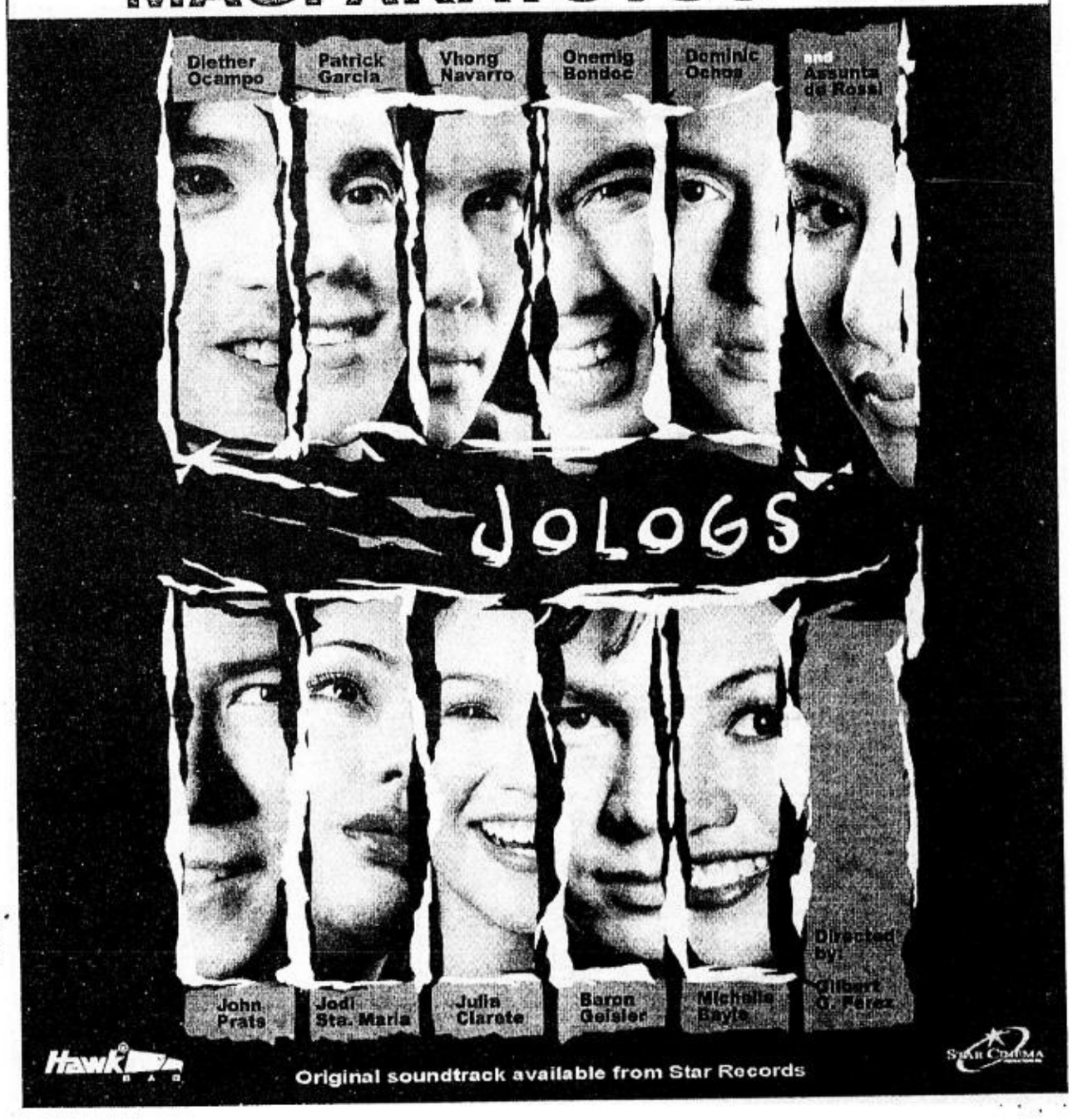
OPENS AUG. 28
FEEL YOUNG! FREE YOURSELF!
MAGPAKATOTOO KA!


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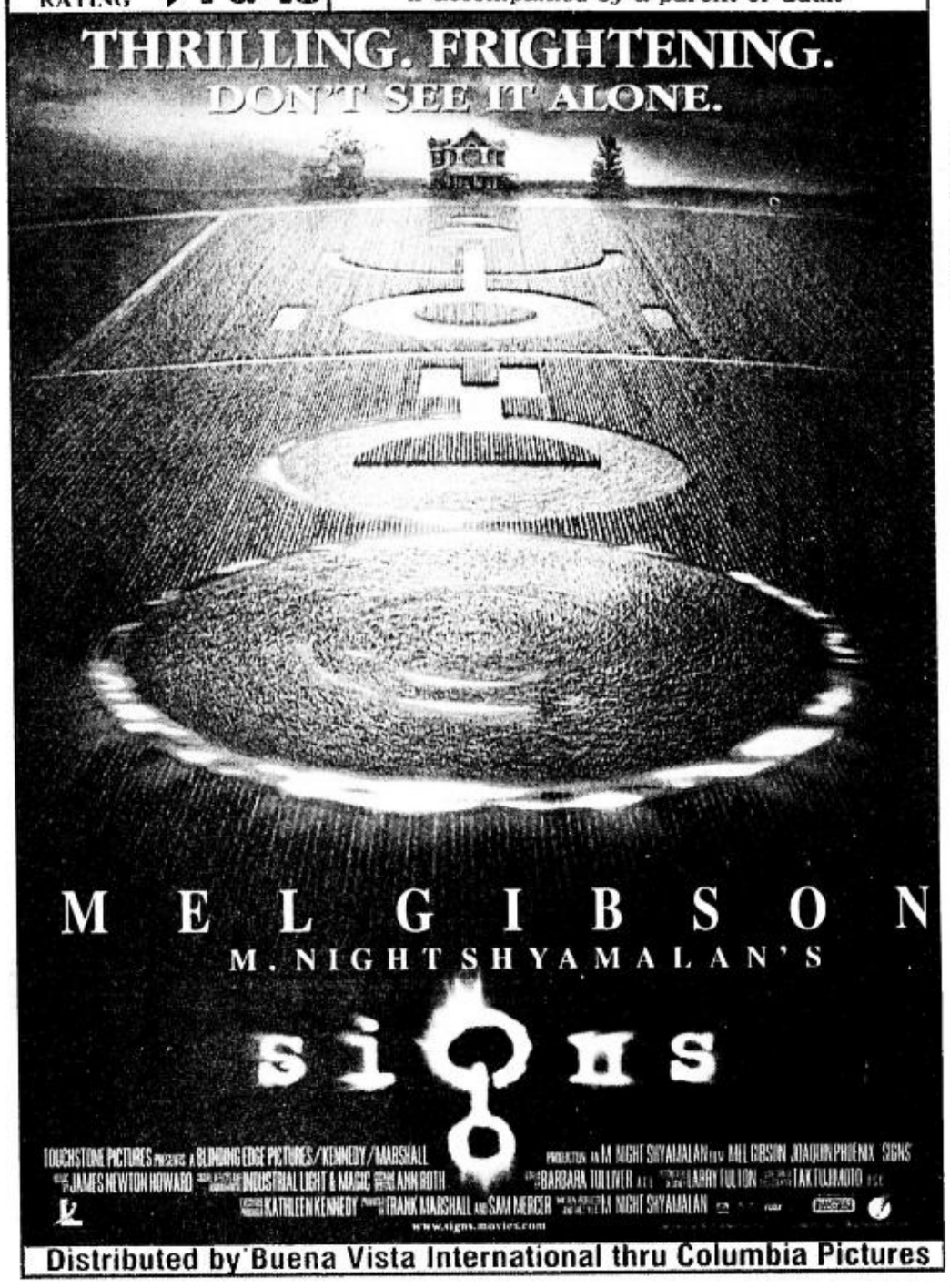
ON AUGUST 28, THE SIGNS WILL BE REVEALED!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


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"ESPIONAGE ADVENTURE"
XPLODE 2 D XTREME - AUG.28!
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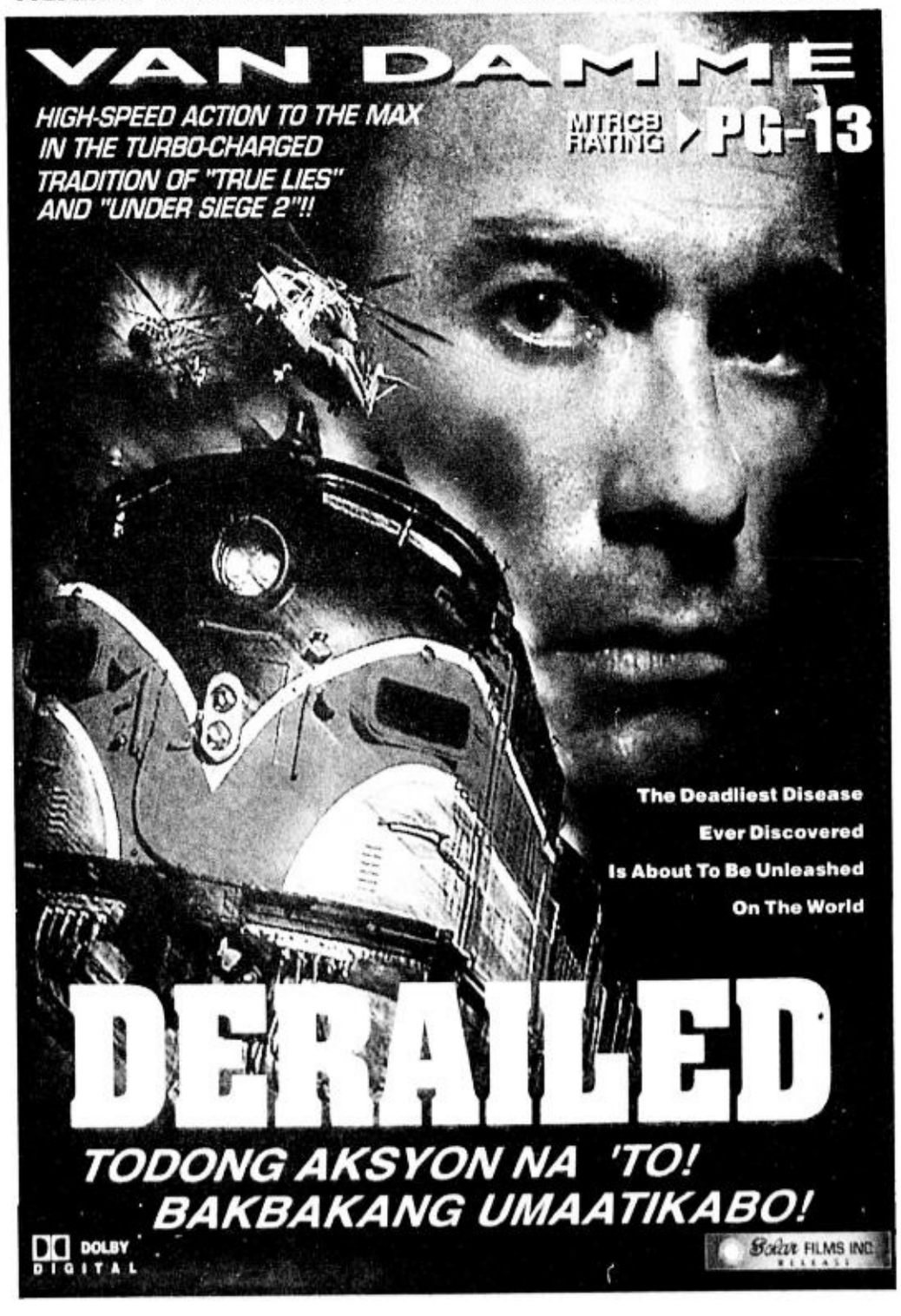
AGAINST THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS TERRORISTS!!


I am just doing my job, Erice tells Malonzo

By Tina Santos

CALOOCAN City Rep. Edgar Erice says he was merely doing his job when he revealed that city officials have been recklessly spending taxpayers' money, which nearly led to the city's financial ruin.

Erice, of the city's 2nd district, brushed aside Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo's allegations that the solon was "merely grandstanding" and "engaging in early politicking," when the congressman made the disclosure.

"We're both in politics and these are political issues, so what can I do?" Erice said, referring to Malonzo. "I'm not a hypocrite. I'm just doing my job. What I am saying are constructive criticisms."

The solon likewise ignored the mayor's claim that he is just "hell-bent on wanting to become city mayor."

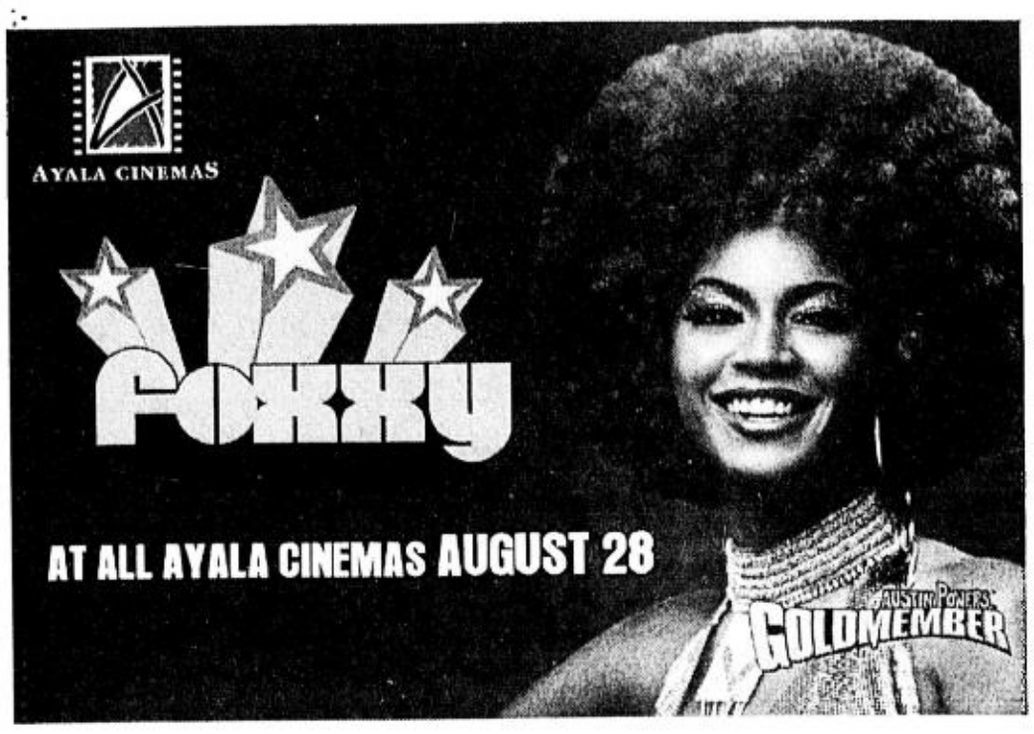
"So what if I intend to run in the next mayoral elections," Erice replied. "What's wrong with that?"

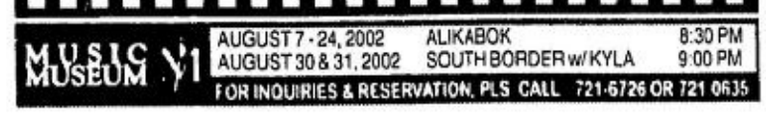
Erice earlier accused Malonzo of mismanagement and engaging in questionable deals that left the city government with a P1-billion debt.

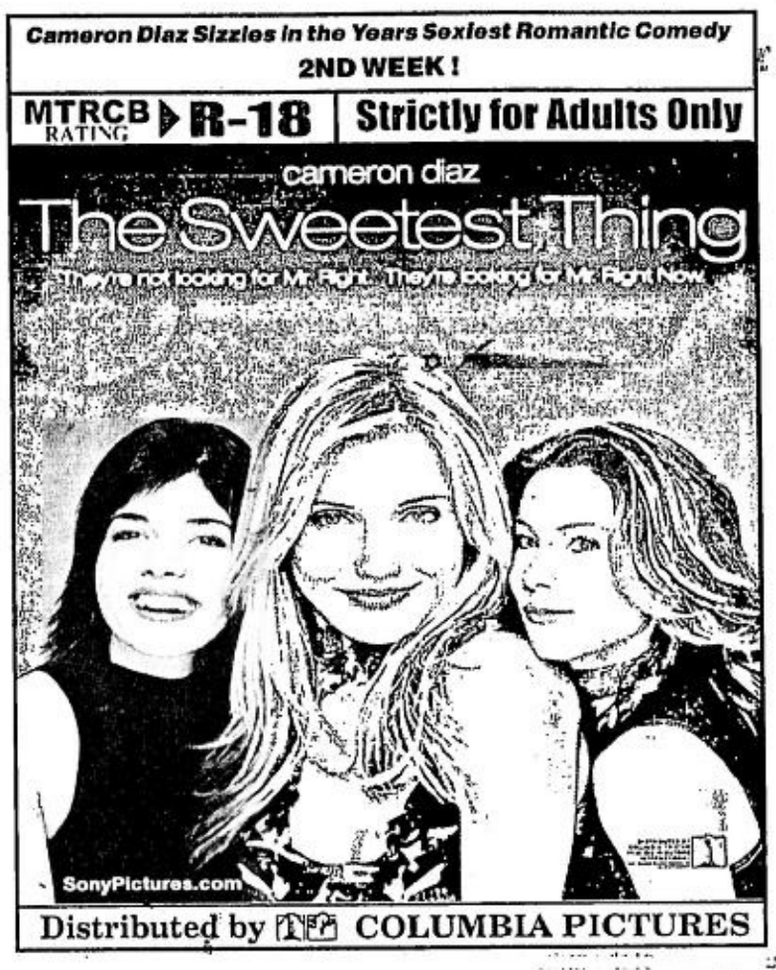
Erice had also cited the alleged anomalous disbursement of some P244 million, which Francisco Veza, secretary to the mayor, had reportedly approved on behalf of the Malonzo. The Commission on Audit allegedly learned of the disbursement and revealed it in a special report.

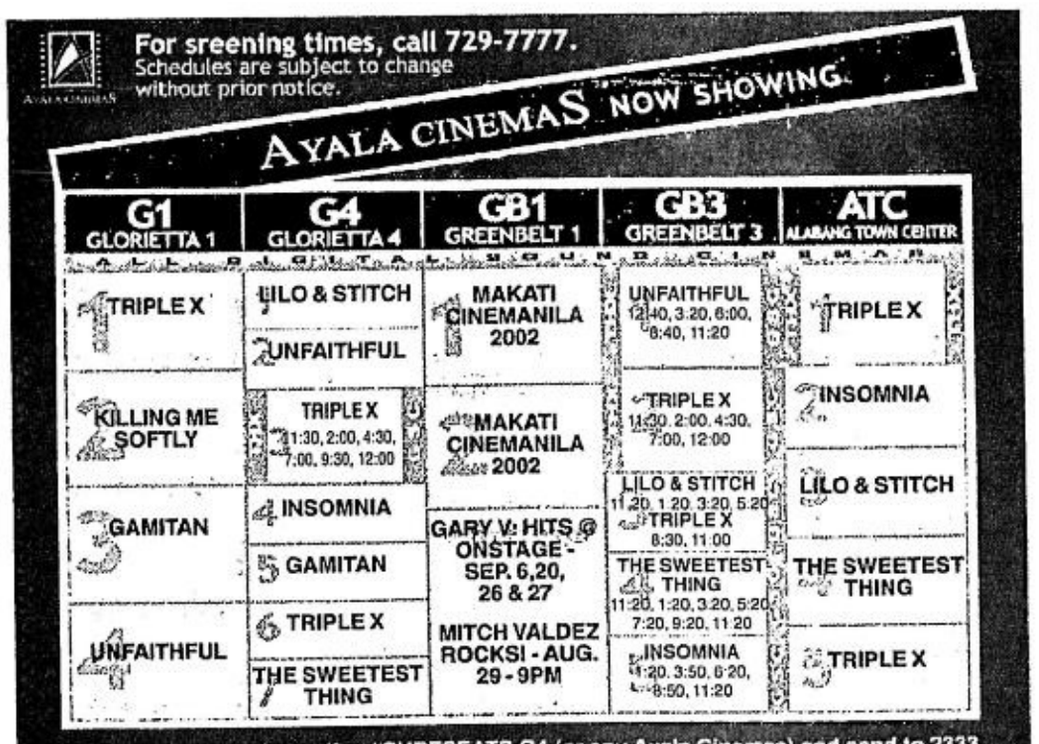
"I would understand if they had failed to pay these obligations for one or two months, but for seven months?" Erice said. "That's a different story. And besides, where did all the money go?"

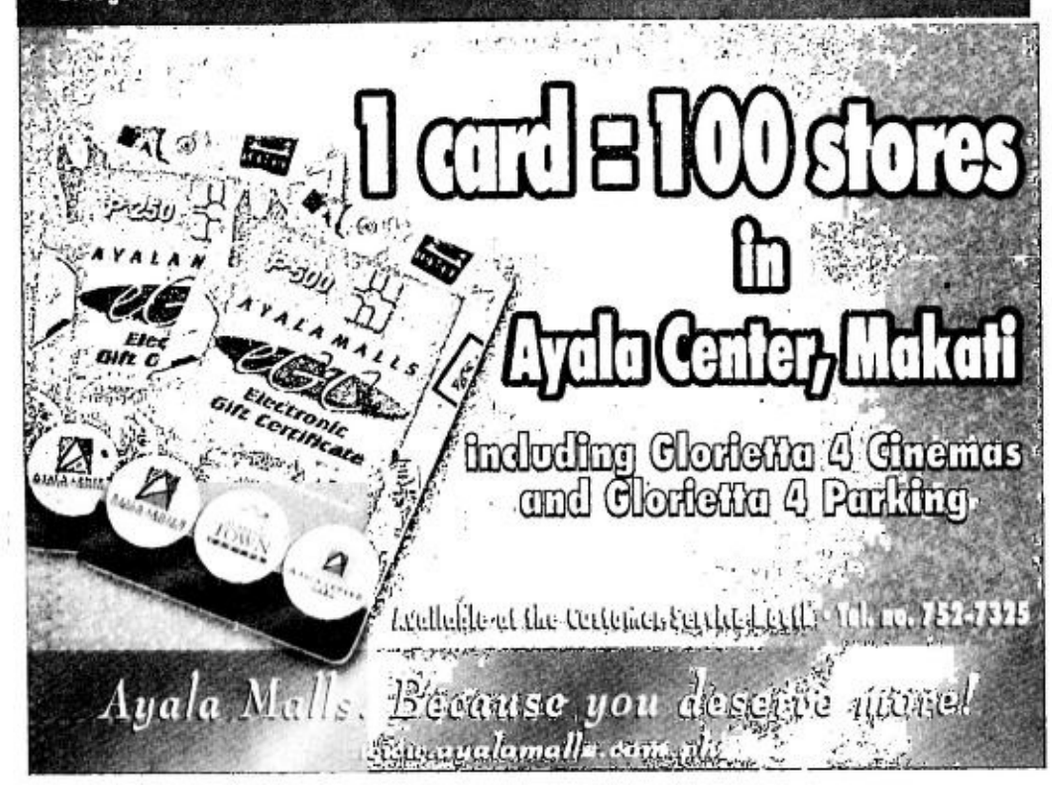
"All the things I am talking about are documented, they can verify these with the GSIS, BIR," Erice added.











THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GAMITAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BIGLANG LIKO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SWEETEST THING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	INSOMNIA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	SEZ & ZEN
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	GAMITAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIYAK NA GUBAT / WILD SIDE
ODEON	TRIPLE XL
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	GAMITAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SUM OF ALL FEARS / 7 DAYS TO LIVE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SEX2 &ZEN THE UNTOLD STORY
REMAR	GAMITAN
REMAR-2	BIGLANG LIKO

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	GAMITAN
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-2	TRIPLE X

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-2	KILLINE ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-3	SWEETEST THING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	8 LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HUMAN EATER
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	D' URAGONS
CINEMA-8	SEX & ZEN UNTOLD STORY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	INSOMNIA
CINEMA-12	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
CINEMA-14	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-15	GAMITAN

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA 4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Mayors to insist on power to hire, fire cops

'Cops can always take orders from us, but they have the option to obey or defy us'

By Jerome Aning

FULL control and supervision over the police is what Metro Manila mayors would insist on when they meet President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang today, according to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Atienza said he and the other mayors would also discuss with Ms. Macapagal the mechanics of the planned devolution of police control in the National Capital Region.

Atienza, president of the Metro Mayors League, said they will insist on the power to hire and fire policemen to ensure that the law enforcers will follow the directives of local executives.

The President earlier approved the transfer of police control to local government heads, who contend that it is the genuine solution to the country's peace and order problem.

Atienza said the mayors are having a hard time disciplining erring policemen, because the local executives do not have the power to sack them.

"The mayors are not really the policemen's bosses but the national police leadership in Camp Crame," he said. "Cops can always take orders from us, but they have the option to obey or defy us, knowing that they are still only answerable to Crame."

Atienza said the most that mayors could do, as deputized agents of the National Police Commission, is to pursue charges against erring lawmen and ask for their transfer.

The case would go to the Peoples' Law Enforcement Board and could take up to a year to resolve, he said.

And while all that was happening, the erring policeman would be transferred by his director to another locality where he can repeat his misdeed, Atienza said.

The mayor recounted a recent incident when he caught a traffic police official parking his jeep on a no-parking zone on Carlos Palanca Street in Quiapo.

Other motorists imitated the police official and also parked their vehicles on the street, causing a traffic bottleneck.

"When I confronted him, I could have fired him on the spot if I only had the power to do so," Atienza said. "If I just asked for his transfer, the policeman would only be moved to another place and repeat his misdeed again."

"The officer was dumbstruck when I told him to just issue a (traffic violation) ticket to himself, which he did," Atienza added.

The mayor said if policemen "know we could fire them for not doing, or failing to do, their jobs, they have no choice but to implement the law quickly, faithfully and efficiently."

The Napolcom and the Interior Department oppose the devolution, saying it could not be implemented without amending the law.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

LILO & STITCH - GP 12:30,2:30,4:30 TRIPLE X - P13 6:50,9:30	LILO & STITCH GP 11:30,1:30,3:30, 5:30,7:30,9:30	UNFAITHFUL R18 11:30,2:05,4:40, 7:15,9:50
INSOMNIA R13 12:30,2:55,5:20, 7:45,10:10	Sweetest Thing R18 12:30,2:20,4:10, 6:00,7:50,9:40	TRIPLE X P13 11:50,2:30,5:10, 7:50,10:30

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The military arrogance

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

AFTER the military has cleared three high-ranking officers of colluding with Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan during last year's stand-off in Lamitan, Basilan, why should the Senate still insist on recommending their court martial?

Why doesn't the Senate just file the case with the Office of the Ombudsman?

The People of the Philippines will not be given a fair hearing at the court martial because the concerned officers were given a "not guilty" verdict even before the start of the trial.

***

Let's face it: the military establishment all over the world is one big fraternity. The members look after each other.

When they're under attack from "outsiders," military men close ranks.

After all, wasn't it a military man who, in justifying the wrongdoing of a comrade-in-arm, said, "He may be an SOB, but he's our SOB.

***

Gen. Roy Cimatu, Armed Forces chief of staff, said he would convene a general court martial to try the three officers.

Cimatu's statement ran counter to that of the AFP spokesman, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, who said that the three officers had been cleared by a board of inquiry.

Cimatu apparently made that statement to please the members of the bicameral Commission on Appointments which earlier confirmed his four-rank rank and his interim appointment as AFP chief of staff.

***

Under normal circumstances, Cimatu probably would have followed the sentiments of fellow generals and subordinates that there should be no military trial for the three officers.

The Senate committees on national defense and on justice and human rights have recommended the court martial of Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Col. Juvenal Narcise and Maj. Eliseo Campued for allegedly colluding with the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

The three officers were commanders of hundreds of troops that surrounded Abu Sayyaf bandits and their hostages holed up inside the Dr. Jose Ma. Torres Memorial Hospital. They had landed in Lamitan after a long journey by boat from Dos Palmas resort in Palawan where they kidnapped some guests and employees of the resort.

The two Senate committees' recommendation was based on statements made by Lamitan residents, as well as witnesses, on the incident.

***

In a democracy, civilians rule over the military.

But the Philippine military mindset apparently does not recognize that dictum. It still harks back to President Marcos' martial law years when civilians licked the boots of the military.

Most of the generals and senior colonels were young captains and lieutenants during those unlamented years. They probably enjoyed it when civilians during those years trembled in fear in their presence.

***

Going by this mindset, no civilian, no matter whether he occupies a high government position, should order a military man around.

The military top brass has not overcome that arrogant attitude of the bygone era.

The military clique will only try its own kind at its pleasure without any prodding from the outside.

***

Why does the military high command want to exonerate the three officers even before they are tried by court martial?

Because the impending military trial, which will surely be covered by media, will expose the corruption and incompetence of many officers in the field.

If those officers' corruption and incompetence were exposed during the trial, it would create a chain reaction. The ineptitude and corruption of many other officers will also be exposed.

***

Abu Sayyaf bandits seized six Christian missionaries in Sulu.

What? We thought the military had said the Abu Sayyaf was already a "spent force?"

If our military can't lick a small band of bandits, how can we expect it to protect the country from foreign aggressors?

***

Former President Erap is trying to convince his bosom buddy, action superstar Fernando Poe Jr., to run for president in 2004.

Ronnie Poe, considered a "sure winner" should he decide to throw his hat into the political ring, has consistently turned down offers for him to run for the country's highest post.

Hindi naman siya uto-uto at matakaw na gaya ni Erap.

***

Why does Ninoy Aquino look sad in the P500 bill?

Because of what Kris has been doing lately.

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SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 1
MTRCB RATING: P13
Regular showing on August 28 at the SM CINEMAS.
Simultaneously shown at
SM Pampanga

Army men, Marines shoot it out in Taguig bar; 1 dead

By Christian V. Esguerra

ARMY sergeant Robert Dimaala was killed while two other soldiers were injured during a shootout between Army men and Marines in Taguig before dawn yesterday.

Dimaala, 30, and his companion, Pfc. Roderick Saramines, shot it out with two members of the Philippine Marines inside Vilma's Videoke on Pasong Tamo Extension, Western Bicutan, at around 4 a.m., said Insp. Virgilio Pagtama, Taguig Station Investigation Division chief.

Saramines and Marine Sgt. Henry Tupas were injured in the gun battle and were taken to the V. Luna Medical Center.

The four soldiers were drinking in separate tables when they suddenly pulled their service firearms and fired on each other, investigation showed.

Authorities are now looking for Tupas' brother who was said to be with the injured Marine sergeant during the incident.

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NBI man slain in Tondo row

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation confidential agent Juanito L. Chua, 46, was shot and killed during a quarrel with barangay watchmen in Tondo, Manila before dawn yesterday.

Chua's brother Philip, 30, tried to save him but the suspects also beat him up.

Philip accompanied his brother Juanito to Juan Nolasco Street in Tondo, Manila to bring home the latter's girlfriend, Michelle A. Malabuyoc, 20, said Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District.

The watchmen, Nguso De Guzman and Eusebio I. Manalang, 42, both residents of Tondo, along with five others, approached Juanito and his companions as they got down from their car and provoked an argument with them, Villareal said.

In a few minutes, the victim was beaten up and shot dead, he added.

Police identified De Guzman as the gunman, while Manalang was arrested at the National Orthopedic Hospital, where he was receiving treatment for his wounds. *Philip Tubeza*

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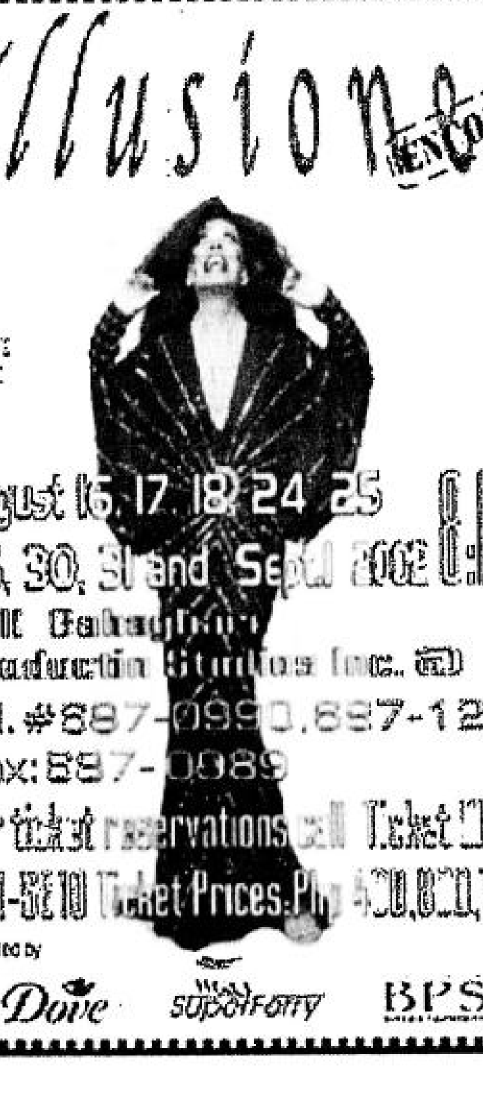

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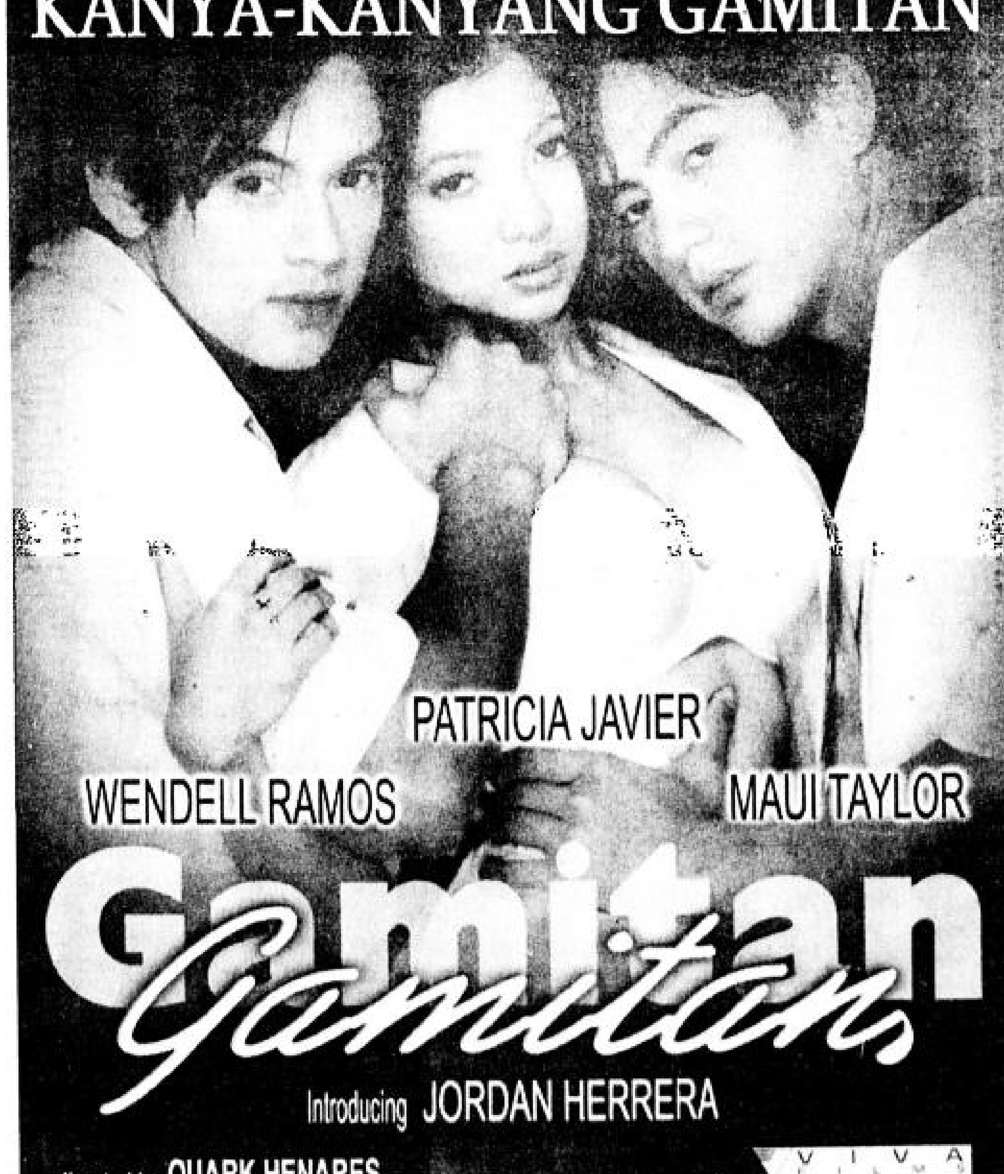

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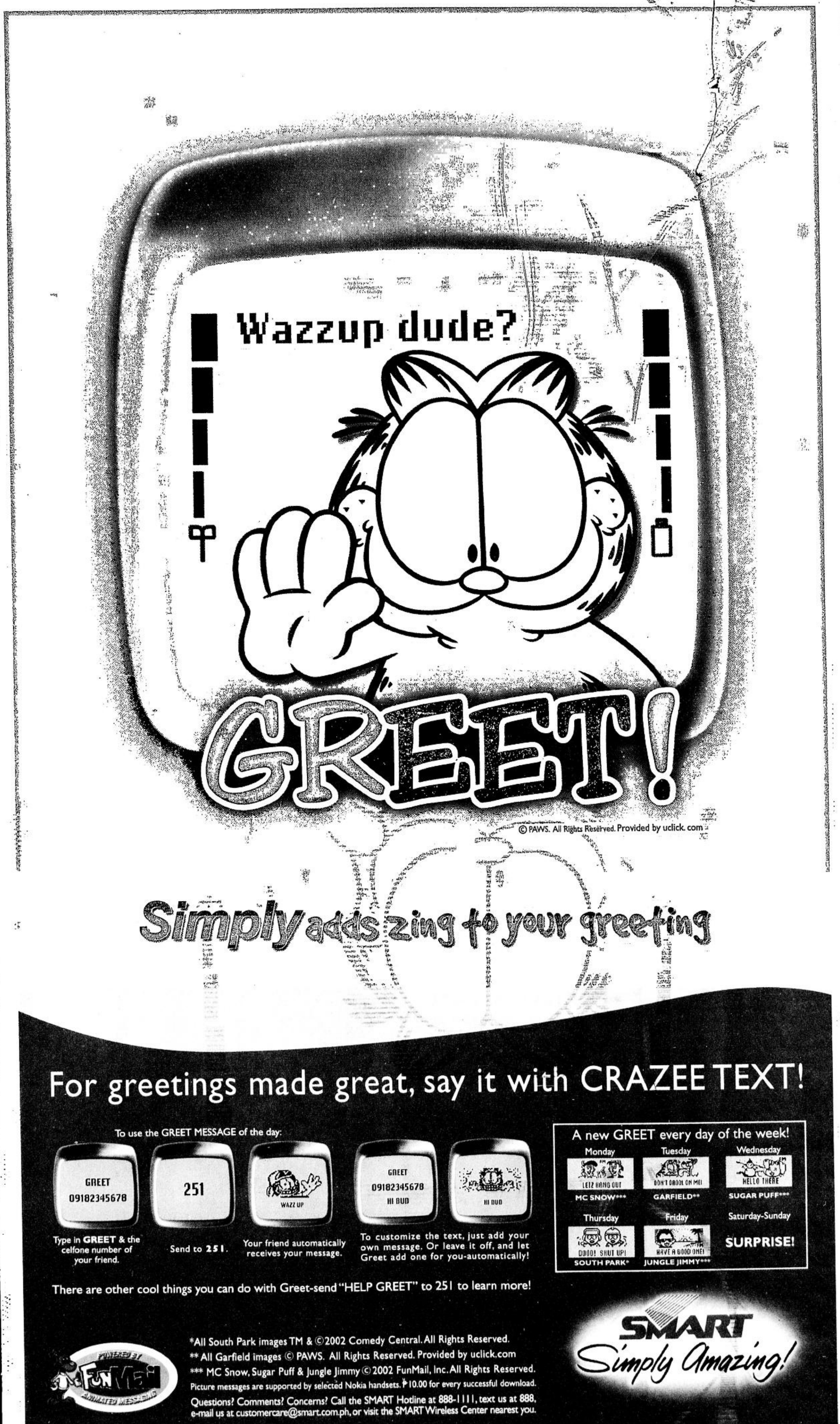

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SATURDAY,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

B1

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OFW remittances surge to $3.6B

By Clarissa S. Batino

DOLLAR remittance of the country's overseas workers surged by 45.13 percent to $3.618 billion in the first five months from $2.493 billion a year ago, reflecting the increase in the number of Filipinos who left for employment abroad.

During this period, the peso was gradually recovering to the 49:$1 level and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had attributed the improvement in the value of the local currency to the foreign exchange earnings sent by OFWs to their families.

In May alone, the dollar earnings sent by Filipino workers reached $791 million. However, this was lower than the $863 million in April and $905 million in March.

The improved dollar receipts had helped the country achieve a gross national product growth of 4.9 percent in the first quarter while the growth in gross domestic product only stood at 3.8 percent.

Much of the difference between the GNP and the GDP growth is usually traced to the dollar earnings of Filipinos working abroad.

But the peso had started acting up since June, its volatility triggered by political, fiscal, and peace-and-order problems.

The increased OFW remittance pushed the surplus in the country's income accounts to $2.526 billion as of May from $1.236 billion a year ago.

The income account reflects the flow of funds largely from trade in services.

Using data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the number of Filipinos that were freshly hired and rehired grew by 3 percent as of May. But this had not been reflected by the latest yearly survey done in 2001 that placed the number of OFWs at 4.675 million.

The BSP noted that as of May, the number of Filipinos who left for employment overseas rose to 405,539 from 388,898 the previous year. Most of the newly hired and rehired Filipinos went to work for countries in the Middle East.

The central bank hoped the dollar remittance from overseas workers would be stronger this year to help stabilize the local currency and complement the improved inflow from portfolio and direct investments.

Last year, OFW remittances went down by 8.1 percent or by $490 million to $5.56 billion from $6.05 billion the previous year as the number of Filipinos working abroad also registered a drop.

In 2001, there were 100,000 less Filipinos deployed overseas from 4.8 million a year ago. This was based on a survey conducted by the Commission on Filipino Overseas, an attached agency of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The central bank had noticed that some remittance inflow had been coursed through the smaller banks or even the money-shops affiliated with the big banks.

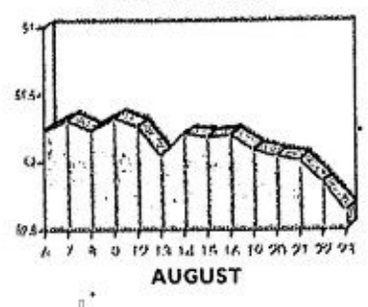
The BSP said a healthy dollar inflow should help complement the performance of the domestic economy particularly agriculture, services, and consumer and public spending.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 52.365 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 23, 2002

¥ 119.88 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 23, 2002

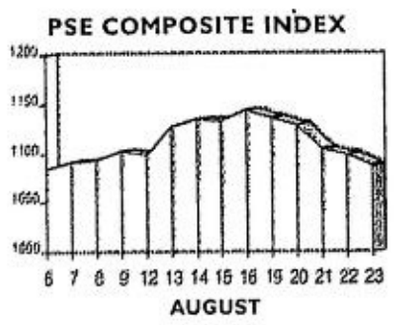
GOLD: $306.10/306.60

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 23, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks fall on peso, hostage concerns

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES ended lower for a fifth straight session yesterday as another hostage drama renewed concerns about peace and order in the country, traders said.

The budget deficit blowout in the first seven months of the year and further weakness in the peso also rattled nerves.

The government on Thursday announced the deficit in the period rose to P133.1 billion, slipping past the full-year target of P130 billion.

"There's a menu of negative news which is discouraging investors' appetite. I guess the taste buds will take some time before adjusting to the bitter reality of a growing budget deficit and renewed concerns over the peace and order situation in the south," said Astro del Castillo A&A Securities Inc. research head.

"The Abu Sayyaf had been stricken off as a threat of late with the focus switching instead to the (communist) New People's Army instead but it turns out they are still very much a problem," said BPI Investment Management head Jo Ann Eala.

The main index ended down 11.24 points, or 1.02 percent, at 1,087.26 points. Over the week it shed 4.9 percent. It is now hovering just above its low for the year of 1,083.91 points.

Value turnover remained low, reaching P254.24 million from P224.66 million on Thursday.

One of the largest capitalized stocks, PLDT, led the broad market lower shedding P12.5, or 4.24 percent, to P282.50.

The selldown followed a sharp slump in the firm's American Depository Receipts in New York on Friday, Eala said the stock had lagged the broad market's decline in the past few days and yesterday's fall was probably the result of a technical catch-up as a few large investors shed some of their holdings on news the deficit had breached the full-year target. *Reuters*

Peso closes at 12-mo. low of 52.36 to $1

By Clarissa S. Batino

A SLEW of negative domestic news aggravated by weakness of major regional currencies pushed the peso 21 centavos down to 52.36 to a dollar, its lowest level since Aug. 9 last year when it closed at 53:$1.

Monetary authorities blamed weak regional currencies, particularly the Japanese yen which slid by almost one percent yesterday as well as the Thai baht which fell substantially before recovering toward the close, for dragging the peso down to new lows.

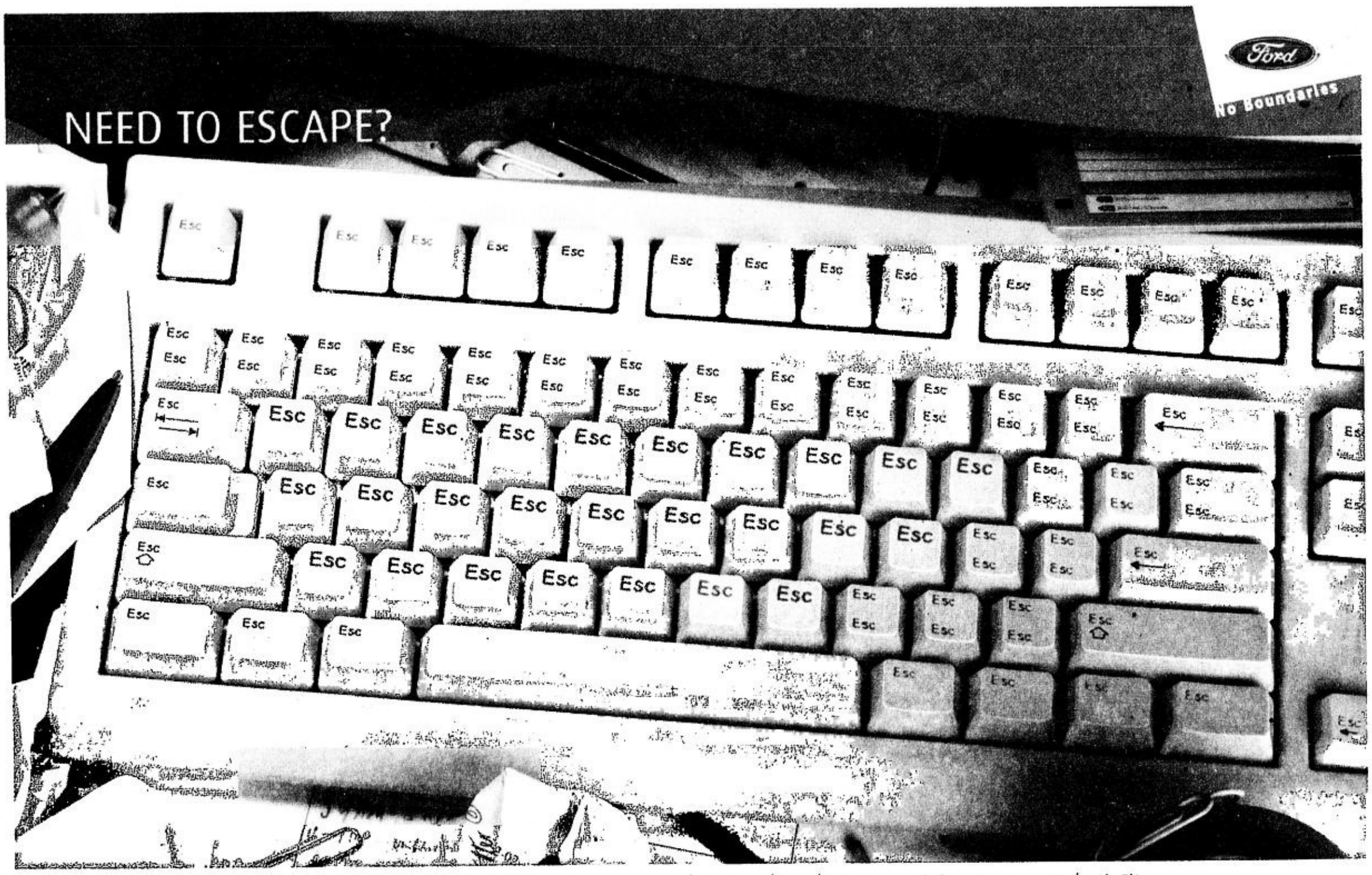
Opening at 52.30 to $1, the peso dropped to a low of 52.37 before recovering slightly in the afternoon.

"It was largely regional and global weakness. Unfortunately, in our case, it was reinforced by the bad news like the deficit and the beheading of two of the victims of the Abu Sayyaf," said Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The BSP chief pointed out that although the peso shed 0.5 percent yesterday, its decline on a year-to-date basis had remained modest at about 1.5 percent.

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS FAIR

After a rigorous screening process, 38 student entrepreneur finalists were chosen to showcase their products at the Thames' 1st Student Entrepreneurs Fair, titled "Ano ba ang Racket Mo?" at the Megatrade Hall 3 of SM Megamall from Aug. 23-24. As part of its mission to develop a new generation of job-makers instead of job-seekers, Thames International Business School launched the event together with the Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students (TIES) Awards 2002, the first recognition of its kind to students who epitomize the entrepreneurial spirit. Ten finalists will be chosen today Attending the grand opening of the fair are (from left) Thames director Joel Santos, INQUIRER corporate relations manager Celine Madamba, Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce vice chair Robin Sy, Thames CEO Vivienne Tan, Presidential Adviser for Job Creation Cito Lorenzo, and Mrs. Lucio Tan.



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Port barrel

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WHAT makes a place tick? They say in Baguio City, it's the weather and perhaps partly it's *ukay-ukay*. For Metro Manila, I'm sure it's not the disappearing sidewalks.

Recently, I visited that boomtown of the 1990s—General Santos City—just off Sarangani Bay at the southeastern tip of the Mindanao mainland.

Definitely, the place has a strong pull. All the big banks set up several branches there. With so many banks, you'd think the city's main business is printing money.

But its pull is not that hard to pin down. Sarangani Bay is a deep natural harbor. Putting up a commercial port in General Santos should have been a no brainer.

I figured it must be the port that made General Santos tick. It will be the port that will make the area around it tick even louder in the near future.

The port in General Santos can become the country's first transshipment port. It's just an accident of location. It is the nearest Philippine port to Indonesia.

* * *

THE OPERATOR of the port in General Santos is a private company called Scipsi, for short, which a subsidiary of ICTSI, for short, that, in turn, operates the port in Manila.

Rico Cruz is Scipsi's general manager. He likes to talk about things like "efficiency," which he says should make the port attractive to shippers.

When he explained it to me in a language that even I can understand, I got the feeling that "efficiency," after all, was really just a lot to do with common sense.

Scipsi now uses equipment, for example, that speed up the loading and unloading of cargo. That fast is good for the users even preschool kids know.

Cruz meets with his customers regularly. One time, he told them how to time their cargo delivery to the pier. That it cut port storage fees even an unborn child knows.

As a result, when Scipsi asked for a rate increase, it was probably the only port operator in the country that even got from the business chamber an endorsement.

* * *

THE PORT in General Santos serves a group of provinces with an impossible acronym—Socsksargen—or South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, General Santos City.

It's where they make everything out of tuna, from sausages to *chicharon*. Aside from being the tuna center of the Philippines, it serves Metro Manila a lot of fruits, beef and . . . well, pork. It's the edible kind, all right, congressman? Don't get mad.

It's not exactly a mystery, therefore, that the port business is good. This shows in the financials of Scipsi for the past three years it operated the port.

Vic Estenor is Scipsi's comptroller. He likes to pepper our conversation with numbers, particularly if they refer to money, as in "amounts."

Last year, he told me, Scipsi's income amounted to P100 million. To think, the port was losing heavily before Scipsi took over its operation.

For VAT and income tax, Scipsi paid P17 million last year, which made it the top taxpayer in the city. It remitted to the Philippine Ports Authority another P15 million.

That's some P32 million of clean income for the government in a year out of a single port. Imagine how many ports we have! Paging Finance Secretary Lito Camacho!

* * *

MAYBE, just to toss it around some more, the economy of Socsksargen did fantastically well, and that's why the port business also did fantastically well.

It was not really the case, according to Cruz. The economy in the area took pretty much in the same path as the rest of the country. It grew, all right, but it did not boom.

Actually, Scipsi stole a little business away from the Davao City port by showing shippers their big savings in land transport cost and by offering special deals.

But please don't breathe a word to Mayor Eduardo Duterte, who recommends that the police simply shoot members of kidnap-for-ransom gangs. Joke only, boss!

The only point is, boss-chief Duterte, for extraordinary growth, Scipsi cannot rely on stealing business away from your Davao City port forever.

That's where the dream of a port barrel comes in, as it was told to me by Rico Cruz, the Scipsi general manager, and it can fatten General Santos some more.

In Indonesia just across the sea from the city, they ship goods all the way south to Singapore only for the same cargo to go back north to Japan, Taiwan or Korea.

Why not save a lot in shipping cost by sorting them out in General Santos for distribution to those countries? It sounds good to me, too!

* * *

THIS is one of the rare times that the little guys win. The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, or HLURB, ruled on a case between a bank and condo buyers.

The bank is China Bank, and the condos are Elizabeth Place, which sounds British, and Imperial Sky Garden, which sounds out and out Chinese—Binondo Chinese and not big-time.

In other words, the buyers of those condos mean are not your ordinary filthy rich types. They are your ordinary working class types. They are the little guys.

It seems the bank did not want to release the condo titles to the buyers. The developers owed the bank a lot of money. They used the condo titles as collateral.

HLURB ruled that it really doesn't matter whether or not the developer still owes the bank. It says the bank must release the condo titles to the buyers once they fully pay for the units.

That's one big problem in real estate these days, as the lingering effect of the 1997 financial crisis. When the real estate bubble burst, there were unfinished condos in every other street corner.

Many of the poor buyers cannot get hold of their titles, including buyers of shares in golf clubs. And they cannot do anything because they are just the little guys.

BCDA set to strike deal to settle John Hay developer's liabilities

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority has expressed optimism that it will soon reach a deal to settle Camp John Hay Development Corp.'s debts to the government.

BCDA president and chief executive Rufo Colayco said the current BCDA board was more "open" to a settlement with CJHDC in view of the prevailing weak business conditions.

The BCDA has to be flexible in this period when companies are struggling to cope with rising costs, poor sales and debt problems, he said.

He added that the BCDA wanted to protect government interest by ensuring the viability of the Camp John Hay project and sustain lease payments to the government.

Colayco said the BCDA was willing to accept any settlement, whether in cash or in kind, as long as the terms of the settlement were fair to both sides.

CJHDC wants the BCDA to honor a memorandum of agreement both parties signed in July 2000, which allowed CJHDC to restructure its unpaid P425 million in annual dues for 1999 and 2000.

Based on this agreement, CJHDC will make P150 million in advance payments for its P425-million rental in 1999, with the remaining P200 million to be paid in five annual installments starting 2003 and P75 million in the form of club shares and condominium units.

For its 2000 dues, CJHDC agreed to pay P150 million in cash and the balance to be paid in five annual payments starting in 2004.

The BCDA has already accepted a P50-million advance payment with the signing of the MOA, but this was not implemented because the agency insisted on getting Commission on Audit approval.

The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, however, has ruled that the commission's approval is no longer necessary.

Under its 25-year lease contract, CJHDC will pay P425 million in annual lease payments for the first five years of its contract—the first payment was made in 1997—or 5 percent of gross revenues, whichever is higher, and P150 million annually for the rest of the contract period.

CJHDC, which won the bidding for the property in 1996, justified its demand for a restructuring of its lease payments mainly because of the delays in the delivery of the entire 247-hectare property to CJHDC (BCDA completed the turnover in 1998 when it swapped the Voice of America properties for the 31-hectare lot it could not deliver).

SEC issues new warning against Multitel group

By Elena R. Torrijos

SECURITIES regulators yesterday warned the public anew against investing in Multinational Telecommunications Investors Corp. or any of its related companies.

The Securities and Exchange Commission issued this warning in view of Multitel's aggressive promotion of its products.

In a news briefing, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said she received reports that Multitel was enticing the public to invest in conduit firms "Everflow" and "One Heart" by offering a 10-percent return on investment or double the 5 percent that similar companies were offering.

Multitel is owned by a certain Rosario Balajay.

"We suggest to those investors (with Multitel group) to get their money back because they may lose all of them since we are really going after each and every one of the subsidiaries of Multitel who apparently has gone underground," Bautista said.

The SEC will also seek the help of the National Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement agencies to stop the activities of the Multitel group, she said.

Bautista said the SEC would ask Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin to warn churchgoers against investing their money in Multitel.

The SEC compliance and enforcement department has already asked the SEC to revoke Multitel's corporate license.

The commission issued a cease-and-desist order against Multitel two years ago for going beyond the scope of its corporate franchise.

Multitel is one of 12 corporations that the SEC is going after for offering financial services without a license.

An SEC advisory identified these corporations as Access Credit and Development Group, AVG Group of Companies, MMC Investment and Finance Corp., Multitel Investment Corp., Multitel Investors Corp., Multitel Lending Corp., Phil-Asia Lending Investors Inc. and Zurich.

TRADERS talk to each other, as the electronic board shows a downward graph during morning trading at the Philippine Stock Exchange. Shares ended lower for a fifth straight session yesterday as another hostage drama renewed concerns about peace and order in the country. REUTERS

Pagcor income seen hitting ₱19B

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-OWNED casino monopoly Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. expects to chalk up at least P19 billion in earnings this year, 12 percent higher than last year's record P17-billion income.

In a news briefing, Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino said Pagcor would continue to look for other sources of revenues, especially with the government in need of money to contain its ballooning budget deficit.

Genuino said Pagcor was currently renegotiating its lease contracts with hotels hosting its casinos to cut its operating costs.

Pagcor is being unduly burdened by "escalation" fees contained in its agreements with these hotels, he said.

Pagcor, which is estimated to spend about P800 million a year in rentals alone, is also looking to acquire some properties where it will build new casinos instead of leasing commercial spaces.

New locations within prime tourist areas, as well as those near high-end men's club like Pegasus, are also being considered, he said.

In the first seven months of the year, Pagcor earned some P11.3 billion, only P7.8 billion short of its full-year target. Its average monthly income stood at P1.6 billion, with the highest monthly record of P1.8 billion posted in May.

"This feat was made possible with the institution of a scientific style of management, bold reforms that resulted in substantial savings for the company and a greater policy of transparency and accountability. Support from Pagcor's 11,000 employees and work efficiency played a major role in the corporation's tremendous revenue growth," said a Pagcor report.

The higher income enables the agency to contribute substantially to the government and fund more priority programs to help the poor, it said.

Pagcor's remittances to the government stood at P9.6 billion in 2001.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, August 23, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	17.75	16.75	17.75	306,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43	42	42	415,900
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	27	27.5	27	27.5	254,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	34	32.5	33	284,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	9,000
Security Bank Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	8,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	15,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	57,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1190	1190	1190	1190	330
Sun Life Financial Serv.	940	945	940	940	6,650
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	482.5	482.5	480	480	1,660
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	2,300,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	500,000
Pilitel	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	750,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	290	290	280	282.5	191,480
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	6,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	1,000
Manila Electric Co. B	27.5	28	27.5	27.5	17,300
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.62	742,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	134,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	453,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	261,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	10,600
RFM Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.76	180,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48.5	49	825,800
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	52.5	51.5	51.5	166,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5	5.1	3,487,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.3	2.28	2.28	254,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	7,100,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	100,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.4	0.47	0.4	0.47	40,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	400,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12	12	11.75	11.75	309,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	100,000
Ionics, Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	9,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.59	2,460,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	10,000
Music Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	1,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.62	0.69	0.62	0.69	100,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	1,200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8	8	8	8	2,219,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.31	0.31	1,950,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	450,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.5	891,300
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	775	775	775	775	5,000
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	10,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	261,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	1.98	1.98	166,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	190,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	1,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	140,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1	1.04	1	1.02	3,030,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.66	1.66	240,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.25	0.29	6,310,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	220,000
SM Development Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	460,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	3,498,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	20,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	80,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0026	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	13,200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,419,880	46,299,505.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	44,891,740	179,485,480.00
PRO	15,615,000	28,122,400.00
Mining	300,000	31,000.00
OIL	19,750,000	182,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	81,976,620	254,121,285.00
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	423.52	DOWN 3.68
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,500.44	DOWN 19.39
PRO	510.40	DOWN 0.35
Mining	1,125.93	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.35	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	633.12	DOWN 1.52
Composite	1,087.26	DOWN 11.24

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15; NO. OF DECLINES: 32; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 78 NO. OF TRADES: 1,342

DISCLOSURES

SEAFRONT Resources Corp. has transferred to its new office at the Mapua IT Center building in Makati.

* * *

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. has confirmed that interconnection talks with **Smart Communications Inc.** are progressing.

* * *

THE LISTING yesterday of 94,000 Philippine Deposit Receipts of **ABS-CBN Holdings Corp.** has brought the company's total PDRs to 269.2 million.

* * *

MABUHAY Holdings Corp. has approved its company's manual of corporate governance and has designated Agnes Marie Villano as compliance officer.

* * *

REPUBLIC Cement Corp. has disclosed the election of Pierre Deleplanque as director of the company following the resignation of Jean Dominique Sejourne.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Acesite (Philippines) Hotel Corp.** were Fu Liang, Norma Azores, Emmanuel Pelaez Jr., Gwendolyn Feliciano, Chen Peng Jing, Li Hui, Vicente Gregorio, P.H. Yu and Chiu Kwok Shing. And elected as independent directors were Peter Go Pallan and Francisco Acosta.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

Aug. 23, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.031885	1.000000	52.0890
Japan	Yen	0.008606	0.008340	0.4344
United Kingdom	Pound	1.569497	1.521000	79.2274
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.132295	0.128207	6.6782
Switzerland	Franc	0.679095	0.658111	34.2803
Canada	Dollar	0.661465	0.641026	33.3904
Singapore	Dollar	0.586932	0.568796	29.6280
Australia	Dollar	0.557414	0.540190	28.1380
Bahrain	Dinar	2.737169	2.652590	138.1708
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.275170	0.266667	13.8904
Brunei	Dollar	0.588237	0.570060	29.6939
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000117	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024435	0.023680	1.2335
UAE	Dirham	0.280969	0.272287	14.1832
Korea	Won	0.000872	0.000845	0.0440
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.969100	50.4794
Argentina	Real	0.289043	0.280112	14.5908
Brazil	Real	0.326546	0.316456	16.4839
Denmark	Kroner	0.134650	0.130489	6.7970
India	Rupee	0.021298	0.020640	1.0751
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.271585	0.263193	13.7095
Mexico	New Peso	0.104994	0.101750	5.3001
New Zealand	Dollar	0.479211	0.464403	24.1903
Norway	Kroner	0.135125	0.130950	6.8211
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017372	0.016835	0.8769
South Africa	Rand	0.094912	0.091979	4.7911
Sweden	Kroner	0.108740	0.105380	5.4891
Syria	Pound	0.023345	0.022624	1.1785
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030421	0.029481	1.5356
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000740	0.000717	0.0373

Japan to call off retaliation against US–reports

Japanese financial watchdog to let banks sell own bonds

TOKYO—Japan's financial watchdog will lift a ban preventing banks from selling their own bonds at their branches as early as next year, a report said Friday.

The move would change rules that limit banks to only selling bonds to institutional investors via securities firms, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper said.

Interest rates on ordinary bank deposits are around 0.001 percent in Japan, but returns on A-rated bonds would be about one percent, the paper said.

Banks have had a hard time raising long-term funding since the government capped its guarantee on time deposits in April to 10 million yen ($84,000).

But the approval of retail bond sales would provide them with a new stable source of funding, the economic daily reported.

In September, the Financial Services Agency (FSA) would start working on the details at its Financial System Council with an eye toward submitting necessary bills to parliament next year, it said.

A spokesperson at the FSA said approving bank sales of their own bonds would be "one of the options" in banking deregulation although the agency could not comment further before the council starts discussions.

"It is up to the council to work out the content (of deregulation)," he added. *AFP*

TOKYO—Japan aims to call off plans to retaliate against US safeguard tariffs on steel imports after Washington announced a seventh set of exemptions, reports said Friday.

The list of 178 products exempted Thursday by the United States includes 23 Japanese products, totaling 53,000 tons a year.

It brings the total level of exemptions for Japanese products to 553,000 tons, roughly 25 percent of the steel Japan exports to America.

Another 45 percent of the 2.2 million tons of Japanese steel exports were never targeted by the safeguard measures.

Tokyo is now finalizing its response to the latest measure with a view to calling off its planned retaliation, major dailies and wire services reported.

Trade minister Takeo Hiranuma was quoted by the Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper as saying: "We have an understanding that Japan and the US will continue holding talks, so we welcome the exclusion of Japanese products."

An official with the trade ministry said a decision would likely be made by Aug. 31, the deadline Japan had set for deciding whether or not to retaliate.

"We would like to praise the fact that some 70 percent of Japanese steel exports to the US are now not a target of the safeguards," the official said. "About the 650,000 tons will still be affected, we are assessing the matter."

In March, US President George W. Bush announced he was applying tariffs of up to 30 percent on most steel imports to protect the ailing US steel industry, prompting Tokyo, the European Union and other countries to lodge complaints with the World Trade Organization.

Japan had originally said the tariffs would hit some 1.4 million tons, or $659 million worth, of Japanese products.

Tokyo had warned it would impose 100-percent tariffs worth $4.88 million a year on certain US steel products from June 18 unless the US dropped its new tariffs on Japanese steel imports.

It further delayed the plan to retaliate until Aug. 31. *AFP*

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Debt rescheduling for Hynix pushed

SEOUL—A long-awaited corporate restructuring plan for South Korea's Hynix Semiconductor Inc. reportedly includes another massive debt rescheduling to keep the memory chip giant afloat.

Deutsche Bank, a financial advisor to Hynix, has proposed that of 6.3 trillion won of total Hynix debts, creditor banks swap 1.85 trillion won ($1.6 billion) for shares in the company, Yonhap news agency said.

This accounts for half of their unsecured loans to the ailing firm.

The bank also suggested that the creditors grant a two-year deferment for the repayment of another 4.3 trillion won of loans due to mature in 2003 and 2004.

The plans calls for Hynix to sell its non-memory operations and the US dynamic random access memory (DRAM) production plant in Eugene, Oregon.

Lee Kang-Won, head of Hynix's main creditor Korea Exchange Bank, said the bank had not yet received the restructuring plan from Deutsche Bank.

"With regard to the restructuring, nothing has been fixed yet. Creditors may consider a debt rescheduling but more discussions are necessary between the government, creditors and the company," he said.

Deutsche Bank's recommendations would not be made public until creditors hold a meeting, possibly next week, to discuss the plan, he said.

Hynix debts peaked at 15.8 trillion won in October 1999 when it took over the semiconductor operations of South Korea's LG Group.

They came down to 11.4 trillion won in December 2000 and further to 6.3 trillion won in December last year following a debt rescheduling.

The debt rescheduling in late October last year included a 1.4 trillion won debt write-off and the conversion of another 2.9 trillion won of debt into equity through the issue of convertible bonds to creditors.

In the five months to December, 20 billion won of Hynix debts will mature. Nearly one trillion won more will mature next year and another 3.4 trillion won in 2004, a Hynix spokesperson told AFP.

Hynix fell back into the red in the second quarter after another slump in chip prices, sparking fresh concerns about the company's survival.

A plan to sell its memory operations to US rival Micron Technology Inc. fell through in April after the deal was vetoed by the Hynix board. Creditors, who negotiated the deal, later took control of the board by swapping debt for a stake of 81 percent.

The world's third largest memory chipmaker posted a net loss of 417 billion won ($350 million) in the second quarter after a modest profit of 3.1 billion won in the first quarter to March.

Sales declined to 778 billion won from 823 billion won in the first three months and the operating loss of 190 billion won compared with a 109 billion won profit.

The 414.0 billion won net loss for the first half to June compared with a massive 2.09 trillion won loss in the same period a year earlier. *AFP*

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P.O. Box 7140 Manila

APP looks for new debt agreement after ruling

SINGAPORE—Debt-laden Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) has pledged to conclude restructuring agreement "as soon as possible" after a Singapore court tossed out a plea by creditors to install an independent management.

The Singapore High Court on Thursday rejected a petition by two European banks—Deutsche Bank and BNP Paribas—to have judicial managers facilitate the restructuring of a $13.4-billion debt.

The banks had filed a petition in June to have the wealthy Indonesian Wijaya family, which owns and operates the Singapore-headquartered company, replaced.

"We are pleased that the Singapore proceeding is now behind us," APP chief executive Teguh Wijaya said.

"We can now look forward to being able to focus all our resources entirely upon the restructuring process with a view to achieving a speedy conclusion."

APP, the largest pulp and paper producer in Asia outside of Japan, said in a statement it "reiterates its commitment to conclude such a restructuring as soon as possible so as to maximize returns for all stakeholders, particularly the creditors."

Judge Lai Siu Chiu said in her judgment that if a Singapore-based judicial management was appointed, it would face difficulties dealing with APP units in Indonesia and China.

Lai said the banks had not proven APP's debt restructuring could be completed more quickly or effectively under a judicial manager, a company source said.

The judge said she wanted to give the Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency the opportunity to proceed with its debt-restructuring plan in collaboration with APP's other major creditors. *AFP*

Citibank to pull out of housing mortgage business in Japan

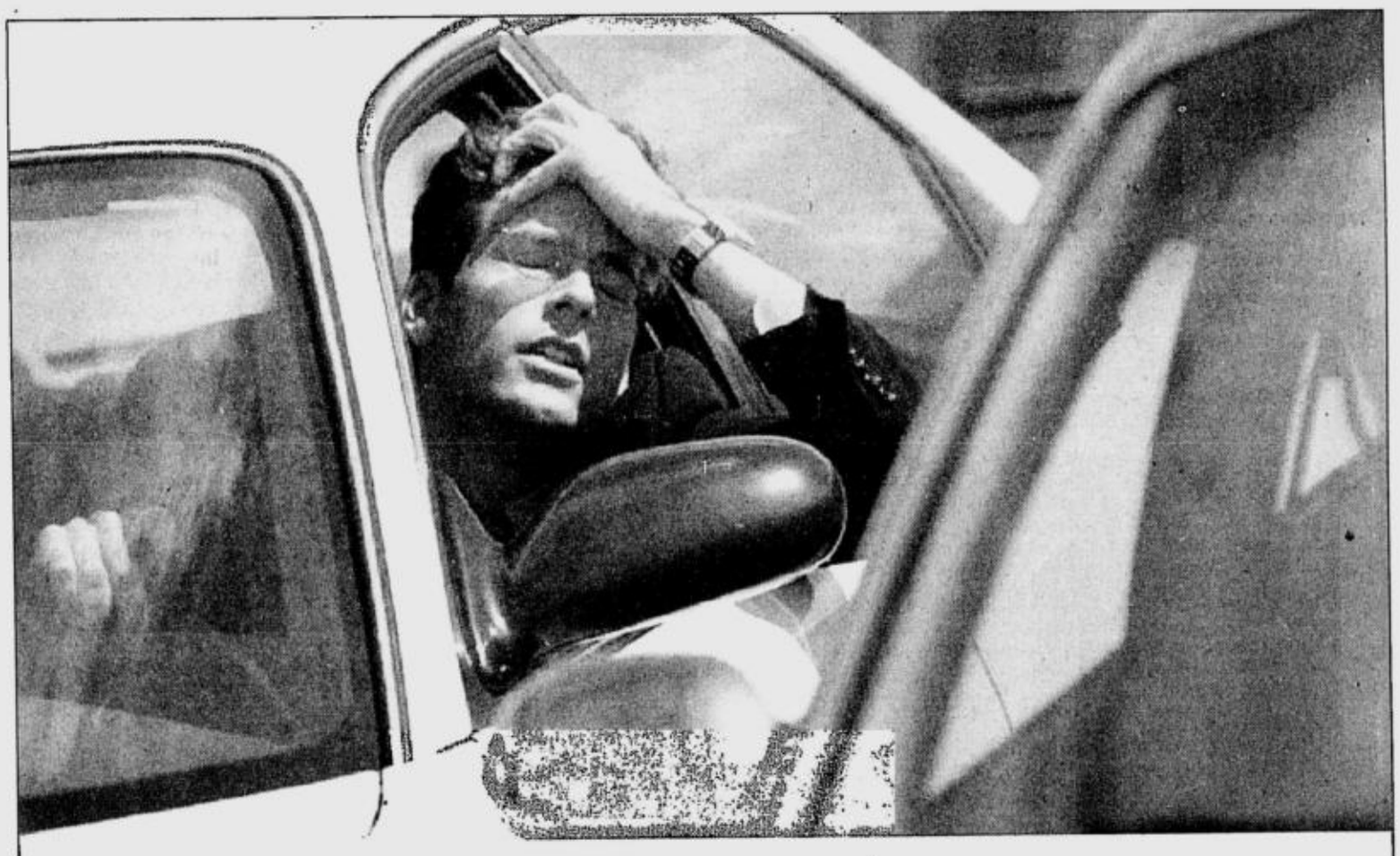
TOKYO—Citibank will pull out of the consumer housing loan business in Japan by the end of September and sell its loan portfolio to UFJ Bank, a unit of UFJ Holdings Inc., a spokesperson said Friday.

"We thought we should focus our activities on areas where we can better utilize our strengths," said consumer banking spokesperson Akiko Nakagawa.

Citibank said would not disclose the aggregate amount of the portfolio, which also includes other individual real estate backed loans.

The US-based bank believes intensifying competition among major banks to slash interest rates makes the business unprofitable, despite holding several hundreds of billion yen in the portfolio, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported.

Citibank said however, it would continue providing such housing loans to affluent clients as part of its "private banking" service. *AFP*



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3158, Series of 2002

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

DEPUTATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT, PRESCRIBING THEIR DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS DEPUTIES OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 31, 2002 PLEBISCITE TO RATIFY THE CREATION OF SEVEN (7) BARANGAYS AS SEPARATE AND DISTINCT BARANGAYS FROM ITS MOTHER BARANGAY SAN VICENTE, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN PEDRO, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA.

PRESENT:

ABALOS, Benjamin S. Sr.,	Chairman
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.	Commissioner
JAVIER, Rufino S. B.	Commissioner
LANTION, Ralph C.	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A. Jr.,	Commissioner

Promulgated: August 21, 2002

RESOLUTION NO. 5671

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code and other election laws, the Commission on Elections may deputize law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the government, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and exercise direct supervision and control over such agencies required by law to perform duties relative to the conduct of plebiscite;

WHEREAS, there is need to deputize, with the concurrence of the President of the Philippines, such law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the government, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines and to prescribe their duties and functions to ensure the holding of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible Plebiscite to Ratify the Creation of Seven Barangays, namely Barangays Pacita I, Chrysanthemun, Rosario, Pacita II, Fatima, San Lorenzo Ruiz and Mahrlika, as Separate and Distinct Barangays from its Mother Barangay San Vicente, Municipality of San Pedro, Province of Laguna on **August 31, 2002**;

NOW; THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election code and other related election laws, has RESOLVED to deputize, as it hereby deputizes, the following law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the government, to perform specific duties relative to the conduct of the plebiscite, as follows:

1. THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

The Department of National Defense, its Department Secretary, and Undersecretaries and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, its Chief of Staff, the Philippine Army, its Commanding General, the Philippine Navy, its Flag Officer in Command, the Philippine Air Force, its Commanding General and all the officers and enlisted personnel under their respective commands are hereby deputized to ensure free, honest, orderly, peaceful and credible Plebiscite to Ratify the Creation of Seven Barangays, namely: Barangays Pacita I, Chrysanthemun, Rosario, Pacita II, Fatima, San Lorenzo Ruiz and Mahrlika, as Separate and Distinct Barangays from its Mother Barangay San Vicente, Municipality of San Pedro, Province of Laguna on **August 31, 2002**;

The Secretary of National Defense shall enforce the orders and instructions of the Commission relative to the election duties and functions of the officers and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The above-named officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and their men shall have the following duties and functions as deputies of the Commission:

1) Provide security to polling places and to members of the boards of election inspectors;
2) Provide security to the personnel of the Commission and other employees of the government performing election duties;
3) Make available certain facilities, such as land, air, and water-craft; communication systems and other equipment, in connection with the delivery and retrieval of election documents, supplies, forms, paraphernalia and equipment;
4) Look into the existence of any armed group organized to commit, or which is committing or about to commit, acts of terrorism or threats to intimidate or coerce any person to vote for or against a candidate and to suppress or prevent said acts of terrorism or threats;
5) Assist the Commission in implementing more effectively election laws and/or rules and regulations, particularly the laws governing prohibition against policemen and provincial guards acting as bodyguards or security guards, the use of armored vehicles and air or water-craft and the prohibition on bearing, carrying or transporting firearms and other deadly weapons in public places;
6) Conduct a periodic assessment of the peace and order conditions in critical areas and recommend measures which may be adopted by the Commission in the interest of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections; and
7) Comply with and/or implement directives or resolutions which the Commission may issue or promulgate from time to time.

2. THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

The Department of the Interior and Local Government and its Department Secretary, the National Police Commission and its Chairman, the Philippine National Police and its Director General, and hereby deputized in connection with the Plebiscite to Ratify the Creation of Seven Barangays, namely: Barangays Pacita I, Chrysanthemun, Rosario, Pacita II, Fatima, San Lorenzo Ruiz and Mahrlika, as Separate and Distinct Barangays from its Mother Barangay San Vicente, Municipality of San Pedro, Province of Laguna on **August 31, 2002**;

1) Effect no changes, during the election period, in the assignments of regional, district, provincial, city and station unit commanders and all PNP personnel under his command without the prior written permission of the Commission;
2) Bring to the attention of each and every member of the Philippine National Police, the following basic considerations:
   a) The conduct of the plebiscite is a purely and absolutely civilian process which, however requires the cooperation of the armed forces, provincial, district, city or municipal police forces and agencies; and
   b) Orders issued by the Commission in connection with the **August 31, 2002** Plebiscite to Ratify the Creation of Seven (7) Barangays as Separate and Distinct Barangays from its Mother Barangay San Vicente, San Pedro, Province of Laguna shall take precedence over and above the orders and directives issued by any other office or agency of the government Provided, That, nothing herein contained shall be construed as in any manner affecting or constituting an impairment of the constitutional powers of the President of the Philippines to conduct and direct the general peace-keeping functions of the Philippine National Police.
3) To direct the officers and enlisted personnel under his command to strictly observe the following duties and functions:
   a) Provide security to polling places, the members of the boards of election inspectors and the voters whenever the need therefor arises, or whenever the Commission through the election officer of San Pedro, Laguna or Election Law Enforcement Teams so requires;
   b) Provide security to Comelec personnel and representatives performing duties and functions in connection with the plebiscite whenever a request to this effect is made or when required by the Commission;
   c) Take steps to protect voters from threats, intimidation, coercion, harassment or reprisal;
   d) Enforce the following prohibited acts under Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code:
      1) Paragraph (m) on appointment or use of special policemen, special agents, confidential agents or the like;
      2) Paragraph (p) on possession of deadly weapons;
      3) Paragraph (q) on carrying of firearms outside residence or place of business;
      4) Paragraph (r) on the use of armored land vehicles, water or air-craft;
      5) Paragraph (s), as amended by Section 32 of Republic Act No. 7166, on wearing of uniforms and bearing of arms;
      6) Paragraph (t), as amended by Section 33 of Republic Act No. 7166, on policemen and provincial guards acting as bodyguards or security guards;
      7) Paragraph (u) on reaction, strike forces or similar forces; and
      8) Ban on dispensing, selling and taking of intoxicating liquor.
   e) Take effective measures to prevent members of civilian vigilante units and barangay tanods from engaging in partisan political activities or any act of terrorism, intimidation, coercion, harassment, or reprisal;
   f) Take steps to prevent security agencies from acting as private armies of any candidate, political party, organization or coalition, campaigners for terroristic or violent acts against person in connection with the **August 31, 2002** Plebiscite to Ratify the Creation of Seven (7) Barangays as Separate and Distinct Barangays from its Mother Barangay San Vicente, San Pedro, Province of Laguna;
   g) Implement strictly the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission in the provinces, cities and municipalities which may be placed under COMELEC control and coordinate with the COMELEC Election Law Enforcement Team therein;
   h) Enforce specific orders of the Commission to confiscate or tear down prohibited election propaganda or advertisements;
   i) Perform such other functions and duties or implement such other directives as the Commission may issue from time to time; and
   j) Render periodic reports on actions taken in accordance with this deputation.

3. THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The National Bureau of Investigation, its Director and all agents under him are designated deputies for purposes of the **August 31, 2002** Plebiscite to Ratify the Creation of Seven (7) Barangays as Separate and Distinct Barangays from its Mother Barangay San Vicente, San Pedro, Province of Laguna and directed to:

a) Deploy NBI agents to designated places in order to effectively carry out the objective of this resolution, furnishing the Commission with a list of said agents with their respective assignments.
b) Direct agents of the NBI to arrest any person who violates the provisions of the Omnibus Election Code and other pertinent election laws and the Rules and Regulations promulgated by the Commission;
c) Report from time to time to the Commission actions taken by him or his agents pursuant to this resolution; and
d) Comply with the orders and directives of the Commission which shall be given priority over orders and directives from other sources, except the Supreme Court and those issued in *habeas corpus* proceedings.

4. THE BUREAU OF PENOLOGY AND JAIL MANAGEMENT

The Bureau of Penology and Jail Management and its Director, are hereby designated deputies of the Commission to enforce the following provisions of the Omnibus Election Code:

"SEC. 261 (n). *Illegal release of prisoners before and after election*. The Director of the Bureau of Prisons, any provincial warden, the keeper of the jail or the person or persons required by law to keep prisoners in their custody who illegally orders or allows any prisoners detained in the national penitentiary, or the provincial, city or municipal jail to leave the premises thereof sixty days before and thirty days after the election. The municipal or city warden, the provincial warden, the keeper of the jail or the persons required by law to keep prisoners in their custody shall post in three conspicuous public places a list of the prisoners or detention prisoners under their care. Detention prisoners must be categorized as such."

and to comply with all orders, directives and resolutions which the Commission may from time to time promulgate.

EFFECTIVITY

This resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in at least two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

DISSEMINATION

The Education and Information Department shall furnish all the above deputized officials and/or departments, offices, or agencies, through their respective heads, copies of this resolution pertinent to their agencies.

The Executive Director shall disseminate this resolution for the information of the public.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI - Aug. 24, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

DEPUTATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT, PRESCRIBING THEIR DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS DEPUTIES OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECALL ELECTION FOR CITY MAYOR OF PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2002.

PRESENT:

ABALOS, Benjamin S., Sr	Chairman
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.,	Commissioner
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.,	Commissioner
LANTION, Ralph C.,	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.,	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.,	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A Jr.,	Commissioner

PROMULGATED: August 21, 2002

RESOLUTION NO. 5676

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code and other election laws, the Commission on Elections may deputize law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the government, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and exercise direct supervision and control over such agencies required by law to perform duties relative to the conduct of recall election;

WHEREAS, there is need to deputize, with the concurrence of the President of the Philippines, such law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the government, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines and to prescribe their duties and functions to ensure the holding of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible Recall Election for City Mayor of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan on September 7, 2002.

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code and other related election laws, has RESOLVED to deputize, as it hereby deputizes, the following law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the government, to perform specific duties relative to the conduct of the recall election, as follows:

1. THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

The Department of National Defense, its Department Secretary, and Undersecretaries and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, its Chief of Staff, the Philippine Army, its Commanding General, the Philippine Navy, its Flag Officer in Command, the Philippine Air Force, its Commanding General and all the officers and enlisted personnel under their respective commands are hereby deputized to ensure free, honest, orderly, peaceful and credible Recall Election for City Mayor of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan on September 7, 2002.

The Secretary of National Defense shall enforce the orders and instructions of the Commission relative to the election duties and functions of the officers and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The above-named officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and their men shall have the following duties and functions as deputies of the Commission:

1) Provide security to polling places and to members of the boards of election inspectors;
2) Provide security to the personnel of the Commission and other employees of the government performing election duties;
3) Make available certain facilities, such as land, air, and water-craft, communication systems and other equipment, in connection with the delivery and retrieval of election documents, supplies, forms, paraphernalia and equipment;
4) Look into the existence of any armed group organized to commit, or which is committing or about to commit, acts of terrorism or threats to intimidate or coerce any person to vote for or against a candidate and to suppress or prevent said acts of terrorism or threats;
5) Assist the Commission in implementing more effectively election laws and/or rules and regulations, particularly the laws governing prohibition against policemen and provincial guards acting as bodyguards or security guards, the use of armored vehicles and air or water-craft and the prohibition on bearing, carrying or transporting firearms and other deadly weapons in public places;
6) Conduct a periodic assessment of the peace and order conditions in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan and recommend measures which may be adopted by the Commission in the interest of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible recall election; and
7) Comply with and/or implement directives or resolutions which the Commission may issue or promulgate from time to time.

2. THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

The Department of the Interior and Local Government and its Department Secretary, the National Police Commission and its Chairman, the Philippine National Police and its Director General, are hereby deputized in connection with the Recall Election for City Mayor of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan on September 7, 2002 and as such shall:

1) Effect no changes, during the election period in Puerto Princesa City, in the assignments of city and station unit commanders and PNP personnel under his command without the prior written permission of the Commission;
2) Bring to the attention of each and every member of the Philippine National Police, the following basic considerations:
   a) The conduct of the recall election is a purely and absolutely civilian process which, however, requires the cooperation of the armed forces, provincial, district, city police forces and agencies; and
   b) Orders issued by the Commission in connection with the September 7, 2002, Recall Election for City Mayor of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan shall take precedence over and above the orders and directives issued by any other office or agency of the government: Provided That, nothing herein contained shall be construed as in any manner affecting or constituting an impairment of the constitutional powers of the President of the Philippines to conduct and direct the general peacekeeping functions of the Philippine National Police.
3) To direct the officers and enlisted personnel under his command to strictly observe the following duties and functions:
   a) Provide security to polling places, the members of the city boards of election inspectors and the voters whenever the need therefore arises, or whenever the Commission through its City Election Officer or Election Law Enforcement Teams so requires;
   b) Provide security to Comelec personnel and representatives performing duties and functions in connection with the recall election whenever a request to this effect is made or when required by the Commission;
   c) Take steps to protect voters from threats, intimidation, coercion, harassment or reprisal;
   d) Enforce the following prohibited acts under Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code
      1) Paragraph (m) on appointment or use of special policemen, special agents, confidential agents or the like;
      2) Paragraph (p) on possession of deadly weapons;
      3) Paragraph (q) on carrying of firearms outside residence or place of business;
      4) Paragraph (r) on the use of armored land vehicles, water or air-craft;
      5) Paragraph (s), as amended by Section 32 of Republic Act No. 7166, on wearing of uniforms and bearing of arms;
      6) Paragraph (t), as amended by Section 33 of Republic Act No. 7166, on policemen and provincial guards acting as bodyguards or security guards;
      7) Paragraph (u) on reaction, strike forces or similar forces; and
      8) Ban on dispensing, selling and taking of intoxicating liquor.
   e) Take effective measures to prevent members of civilian vigilante units and barangay tanods from engaging in partisan political activities or any act of terrorism, intimidation, coercion, harassment, or reprisal;
   f) Take steps to prevent private security agencies from acting as private armies of any candidate, political party, organization or coalition, campaigners for terroristic or violent acts against persons in connection with the September 7, 2002 Recall Election for City Mayor of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan;
   g) Implement strictly the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission in the area aforestated and coordinate with the COMELEC Election Law Enforcement Team therein;
   h) Enforce specific orders of the Commission to confiscate or tear down prohibited election propaganda or advertisements;
   i) Perform such other functions and duties or implement such other directives as the Commission may issue from time to time; and
   j) Render periodic reports on actions taken in accordance with this deputation.

3. THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The National Bureau of Investigation, its Director and all agents under him are designated deputies for purposes of the September 7, 2002 Recall Election for City Mayor of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan and directed to:

a) Deploy NBI agents to designated places in order to effectively carry out the objective of this resolution, furnishing the Commission with a list of said agents with their respective assignments;
b) Direct agents of the NBI to arrest any person who violates the provisions of the Omnibus Election Code and other pertinent election laws and the Rules and Regulations promulgated by the Commissions;
c) Report from time to time to the Commission actions taken by him or his agents pursuant to this resolution; and
d) Comply with the orders and directives of the Commission which shall be given priority over orders and directives from other sources, except the Supreme Court and those issued in *habeas corpus* proceedings.

4. THE BUREAU OF PENOLOGY AND JAIL MANAGEMENT

The Bureau of Penology and Jail Management and its Director, are hereby designated deputies of the Commission to enforce the following provision of the Omnibus Election Code:

"SEC. 261 (n). *Illegal release of prisoners before and after election*. The Director of the Bureau of Prisons, any provincial warden, the keeper of the jail or the person or persons required by law to keep prisoners in their custody who illegally orders or allows any prisoners detained in the national penitentiary, or the provincial, city or municipal jail to leave the premises thereof sixty days before and thirty days after the election. The municipal or city warden, the provincial warden, the keeper of the jail or the person or persons required by law to keep prisoners in their custody shall post in three conspicuous public places a list of the prisoners or detention prisoners under their care. Detention prisoners must be categorized as such."

and to comply with all orders, directives and resolutions which the Commission may from time to time promulgate.

EFFECTIVITY

This resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in at least two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

DISSEMINATION

The Education and Information Department shall furnish all the above deputized officials and/or departments, offices, or agencies, through their respective heads, copies of this resolution pertinent to their agencies.

The Executive Director shall disseminate this resolution for the information of the public.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – Aug. 24, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROHIBITION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OR HIRING OF NEW EMPLOYEES; CREATION OR FILLING UP OF NEW POSITIONS; GIVING SALARY INCREASES; TRANSFERRING/DETAILING CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES; AND SUSPENSION OF ELECTIVE LOCAL OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2002 RECALL ELECTION FOR MAYOR OF PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN.

ABALOS, Benjamin S., Sr	Chairman
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.	Commissioner
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.	Commissioner
LANTION, Ralph C.	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A. Jr.	Commissioner

PROMULGATED:
21 August 2002

RESOLUTION NO. 5678

WHEREAS, Sec. 261 of the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines provides:

"x x x - The following shall be guilty of an election offense:

x x x x x x x x x

"(g) Appointment of new employees, creation of new position, promotion, or giving salary increases - During the period of forty five (45) days before regular election and thirty days before a special election (1) any head, official or appointing officer of a government office, agency or instrumentality, whether national or local, including government-owned or controlled corporations, who appoints or hires any new employee, whether provisional, temporary or casual, or creates and fills any new positions, except upon prior authority of the Commission. The Commission shall not grant the authority sought unless, it is satisfied that the position to be filled is essential to the proper functioning of the office or agency concerned and that the position shall not be filled in a manner that may influence the election.

"As an exception to the foregoing provisions, a new employee may be appointed in case of urgent need: Provided, however, that notice of the appointment shall be given to the Commission within three days from the date of the appointment. Any appointment or hiring in violation of this provision shall be null and void.

"(2) Any government official who promotes, or gives any increase of salary or remuneration or privilege to any government official or employee, including those in government-owned or controlled corporations.

"(h) Transfer of officers and employees in the civil service - Any public official who makes or causes any transfer or detail whatever of any officer or employee in the civil service including public school teachers, within the election period except upon approval of the Commission. (Underlining supplied)

x x x x x x x x x

"(x) *Suspension of elective provincial, city municipal or barangay officer* - The provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding during the election period, any public official who suspends, without prior approval of the Commission, any elective provincial, city, municipal or barangay officer, unless said suspension will be for purposes of applying the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act in relation to the suspension and removal of elective officials, in which case the provision of this section shall be inapplicable."

WHEREAS, to enforce effectively the foregoing provisions, there is need to promulgate the necessary rules for the guidance of all concerned:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code and other election laws, has RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following rules to implement the provisions of Section 261, subsections (g), (h) and (x) of the Omnibus Election Code:

SEC. 1. Prohibited acts. –

(a) During the election period from August 23, 2002 until September 17, 2002 no public official shall make or cause any transfer/detail whatsoever of any officer or employee in the civil service, including public school teachers, or suspend elective city or barangay official in Puerto Princesa City except upon prior written approval of the Commission.
(b) Beginning August 23, 2002 until September 7, 2002, no head, official or appointing officer of any national or local government office, agency or instrumentality, including government-owned or controlled corporations, shall: (1) appoint or hire any new employee, whether permanent, provisional, temporary or casual; or (2) create and fill any new position, except upon prior authority of the Commission.
(c) During the same period of August 23, 2002 to September 7, 2002, no government official shall promote or give any increase of salary or reumuneration or privilege to any government official or employee, including those in government-owned or controlled corporations.

SEC. 2. Requests for authority of the Commission; How to file –

(1) Requests for authority to make or cause any transfer or detail of any officer or employee in the civil service for national positions and those of deputized agencies particularly the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Finance (DOF) for the position of city treasurer shall be filed with the Law Department. For all other positions, requests shall be submitted to and approved by the Regional Election Director concerned. The requests shall indicate the office and place to which the officer or employee is proposed to be transferred/detailed or otherwise moved and the reason for said transfer/detail.
(2) The approving authority shall not grant the request unless it is satisfied that the position to be filled is essential to the proper functioning of the office or agency concerned, that the filling up of such position shall not in any manner influence the elections.

SEC. 3. Urgent need to appoint new employees. – Where there is urgent need to appoint or hire new employees, the same may be allowed without the need for a prior request for authority from the Commission provided that within three (3) days from the date of the appointment or hiring, the Commission shall be notified in writing, stating therein the reason/s for said appointment or hiring and all the necessary data or information regarding the same. Failure to give notice as herein required shall render the appointment null and void.

SEC. 4. Total ban on promotion, salary increases, granting privileges. – Promotion, or giving any increase of salary, remuneration, or privilege to any government official or employee including those in government-owned or controlled corporations, is strictly prohibited without exception whatsoever.

SEC. 5. Request for authority of the Commission to suspend elective City or Barangay official. – Any request for authority to suspend an elective City or Barangay official shall be in writing, to be filed, together with the formal complaint containing the specific changes, executed under oath and the answer to the complaint, if any, with the Law Department of the Commission and approved by the Commission *en banc*.

SEC. 6. Injunction. – The Civil Service Commission (CSC), including all its field offices, is hereby enjoined not to approve the appointment of new employees from August 23, 2002 to September 7, 2002 where no prior written approval of the Commission is presented by the appointing authority of a government or agency.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Commission on Audit (COA), including all their field offices, shall not release or authorize the release of any appropriation, or pass in audit payments or expenditures of public funds that may be directly or indirectly be used in violation of Sec. 1 hereof.

All field offices of the CSC, including its deputized agencies and citizens arms, are directed to submit immediately to the Commission a written report on any violation of said provisions of the Omnibus Election Code.

SEC. 7. Penalty. – Any violation of the provisions of this Resolution shall constitute an election offense and shall be punishable by imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than six (6) years and other penalties provided by law.

SEC. 8. Effectivity. – This resolution shall take effect immediately.

SEC. 9. Dissemination. – The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation, and shall furnish copies thereof to all Departments, Constitutional Commission, Offices, Provincial Governor of Palawan and City Mayor of Puerto Princesa City and government agencies including government-owned or controlled corporations, the Regional Election Director of Region IV, the Provincial Election Supervisor of Palawan, and the Election Officer of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
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(PDI – Aug. 24, 2002)

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HEADQUARTERS
LIGHT ARMOR BRIGADE, PHILIPPINE ARMY
Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac

BAC 21 August 2002

LABDE, PA INVITATION TO BID NR 01-2002

The Light Armor Brigade, Philippine Army is inviting all reputable suppliers to Pre-qualify and Bid for the Supply and Delivery of Radio Accessories of Armoured Vehicles.

The pre-bidding is scheduled on 02 September 2002 at 2:00 PM while the bidding will be on 11 September 2002 at 2:00 PM at LABde, PA Conference Room, Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac.

The LABde, PA neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

THE LABDE, PA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY DEFECT CONTAINED HEREIN AND ACCEPT THE LOWEST COMPLYING AND REASONABLE BID AND ONE THAT IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE PHILIPPINE ARMY.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO P. CUTIYOG
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Aug. 23, 24 & 25, 2002)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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HRD STF 0919-4639391 LYKA

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Olc Staff 7279971 Mr. Bean

SURVEY CONTROLLER (CAD Operator) 843-2596

URGENT OFC STAFF 20-45YO W/WO EXP 9134470 MERCY

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc **#232 Buendia Shopping Plaza Sen Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City.** Will held an Auction Sale on August 31, 2002 at 9:00 AM. Including all items pawned up March 2002. V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer.

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop Makati City
Auction Sale on September 6, 2002 all unredeemed pledges during the month of April 1-30, 2002. Nuestra Br. II Pio-9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am; Damus Pasong Tamo-12:30pm; Nuestra Main -1:30pm; Nuestra Br. IX Zapote 3.00pm.
Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP
LAS PINAS METRO MANILA
Will have its auction sale on September 09, 2002. All unredeemed pledges during the month of April 01-30, 2002. Diajade Main-9:30am; Diajade Br. II 10:30am; Diajade Br. I-1:00pm. Nuestra Almanza 2:00pm.
Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of LEONORA R. GARCIA was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc 118, Page 25, Book III, Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Federico Claudio G. Sandoval of Pasig (PDI- Aug. 10,17 & 24 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late RAMON J BUENO was extrajudicially settled by his heirs with Deed of Absolute Sale as per Doc No. 550, Page No. 87, Book No. I, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Siegfred B Mison of Quezon City.
PDI August 10,17 & 24, 2002

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NOEMI L RAGUINDIN Consisting of Real Property was extrajudicially settled and distributed among his heirs as per Doc. #684; Page #127; Bk#1; Series of 2002 Before Notary Public BENJAMIN C. TIONGSON of Quezon City.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificate No. 1710 for 105 Shares issued to the Premier Insurance & Surety Corporation by National Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines was reported lost (PDI-Aug. 17, 24 & 31, 2002)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENERATION COMPANY I
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 527-4880-82
GENCO I-2002-002 (PBD)

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED SCRAP MATERIALS AT BATANGAS COAL-FIRED THERMAL POWER PLANT "AS IS WHERE IS"

Date of Bidding: September 13, 2002 Time of Bidding: 2:00 PM

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	NPC FLOOR PRICE
1.	Batangas Coal-Fired TPP		
	• Asstd. Scrap Steel Metal	more or less 281,196 kgs.	P 3.00/kilo
	• Asstd. Scrap Aluminum	more or less 133 kgs.	35.00/kilo
2.	Batangas Coal-Fired TPP		
	• Used Batteries	more or less 107 pcs.	P 55.00/pc.
	• Used Conveyor Belts	more or less 8,222 kgs.	5.10/kilo
	• Used Tires		
	1. Bobcat Tires	more or less 103 pcs.	BEST OFFER
	2. Assorted Tires	more or less 168 pcs.	50.00/pc.

Pre-bid Conference will be conducted on **September 6, 2002**, 10:00 A.M. Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 PM on **September 13, 2002**. Sealed bids will be publicly opened on the scheduled date at GENCO I Bidding Room, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN (10%) PERCENT OF TOTAL ESTIMATED BID.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2001) OF THE BIDDER OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY.
3. REQUEST FOR INSPECTION AND BID FORMS AT P 50.00 PER SET MAY BE SECURED FROM THE WAREHOUSE SECTION - ADMINISTRATION DIVISION AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS AND INQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT THE STATED TELEPHONE NUMBER. LIKEWISE, REPRESENTATIVES MUST BRING WITH THEM WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT OF WHICH THEY ARE REPRESENTING. DEADLINE FOR ISSUANCE OF BID FORMS IS ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2002. THE NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY FOUND THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT/REJECT SUCH PROPOSALS AS MAYBE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ITS INTEREST.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Department Manager
Professional Services-GENCO I

(PDI--Aug. 24, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssmail@info.com.ph
Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph

Visit the SSS website (SSS.gov.ph) for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PERMANENT LINES FOR 150 & 80 KVA UPS

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS)** is inviting contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the proposed installation of Permanent Feeder Lines for the 150 & 80 KVA Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) at the SSS Data Center including other related works located at the SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Prospective bidders should have at least three (3) years of experience on projects which are similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid and must possess valid license and certificate of registration to be eligible to participate in the eligibility of contractor for government projects issued by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB).

PCAB License		PCAB Registration/Classification
Category "B" General Building Engineering with specialty in Electrical Works		Medium "A" Specialty in Electrical Works
Approved Budget for the Contract	-	P10,000,000.00
Contract Duration	-	60 calendar days

Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City upon presentation of original and valid licenses, size/range and kind of project issued by PCAB. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee of P8,000.00. For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 and 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on **09 September 2002.**

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MIGUEL E. ROCA, JR.**
Senior Vice President and Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – Aug. 24, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph
Visit the SSS website (SSS.gov.ph) for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

SSS EMPLOYEES' RICE GRANT

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) is inviting bidders for the supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,700 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice for SSS employees for the 4th quarter of Year 2002 with the following specifications:

- Degree of Milling : Well Milled Rice (WMR)
- Moisture Content : 14% (maximum)
- Grade Specifications : Headrice - 90% to 95% (minimum) Broken - 10% to 5% (maximum)
- Packaging : 50 kilos in light yellow woven polyprophylene
- Labeling : With front & back markings
- Delivery Terms : Thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of the Purchase Order (P.O.)

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P1,000.00 per sack per employee
Source of Funding : Capital Expenditures

Interested bidders must secure the list of Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee of P5,000.00. For any inquiry, please call telephone number 922-2991 and 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on **02 September 2002.**

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MIGUEL E. ROCA, JR.**
Senior Vice President
and Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 17 & 24, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION

LETTER OF INVITATION TO QUALIFY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Bureau of Fire Protection is inviting interested bidders who are at least 60% Filipino-owned to qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of:

1,940 pcs FIRE COATS **750 pcs FIRE HELMETS**
750 pcs FIRE BOOTS **1,350 pcs FIRE GLOVES**

Bid documents may be obtained at the Bureau of Fire Protection, Bids and Awards Committee, Room 406, Union Square Condominium I, 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City on September 4-6, 2002 during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM with Telephone No. 911-5943 (Attn: F/INSP MARY JOY M CANDELARIO, Secretariat), upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00 in cash at Finance Service Unit, Room 610. The Pre-bid Conference will be held on September 13, 2002, 2:00 PM at Rm. 101, BFP Conference Room.

The BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their proposals nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOSE E COLLADO
SR SUPT (DSC) BFP
Deputy Fire Chief for Operations
Chairman, BFP-BAC

(PDI--Aug. 24 & 31, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 8
Tacloban City

INVITATION TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) invites interested parties to participate in the sealed bidding for the lease of the Ground Floor of the People's Center and Library as venue for "Christmas Bazaar and Trade Exhibit" from **November 15, 2002** to **January 15, 2003**, located at Real Street, Tacloban City.

The bidding guidelines will be available from PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, Third Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City and at the PCGG Regional Office, Nipa Hut, Jones Street, Tacloban City, starting **August 22, 2002**. For inquiries, please contact Darwin Altea, Tel. No. 726-0034 and Renor O. Dauag, Tel. No. (053) 321-3413.

Bids will be received, opened and tabulated after their submission at 10:00 AM on **September 3, 2002** in the presence of the bidders at the PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, Third Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) **RENOR O. DAUAG**
Officer-In-Charge
PCGG, Region 8

(PDI – Aug. 22, 23 & 24, 2002)

LANDBANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Office of the Area Head
Area III-B
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO BID

SEALED PROPOSALS FOR THE PURCHASE ON CASH BASIS OF THE PROPERTIES DESCRIBED BELOW WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT MANAGER, LANDBANK-NUEVA ECIJA LENDING CENTER, CABANATUAN CITY, NOT LATER THAN Sept. 10, 2002 AT 2:00 PM AT WHICH TIME, PLACE AND DATE, SAID PROPOSALS WILL BE OPENED IN THE PRESENCE OF ATTENDING BIDDERS:

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MIN. BID
TWO (2) CONTIGOUS PARCELS OF LAND COVERED BY TCT NOS. NT-188029 AND NT-188030, COVERING AN AGGREGATE AREA OF 5,014 SQ.M.	POB., SCIENCE CITY OF MUNOZ N.E.	P 9,982,164.00

COPIES OF (1) INVITATION TO BID, (2) GENERAL CONDITIONS ON THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC BIDDING AND (3) APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC BIDDING MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MANAGER. PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE ENJOINED TO INSPECT THE ABOVE-LISTED PROPERTIES BEFORE ENTERING THEIR BIDS. THE SALE OF THE PROPERTIES SHALL BE "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS. THE WINNING BIDDER SHALL TAKE THE POSSESSION OF THE AWARDED PROPERTIES WITHOUT SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM LANDBANK. THE AWARD IN FAVOR OF THE WINNING BIDDER SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE BIDDING COMMITTEE.

LBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF LANDBANK SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

(Sgd.) **ERLINDA Z. VELASQUEZ**
VP/AREA HEAD, AREA III-B

(PDI--Aug. 24, 2002)

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Tel No. (074)-442-8175
Mr. Juanito Castro
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Cellphone No. 09183280175
Batangas City
Mr. Romero Clarion c/o Ms. Wilma C. Reyes
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Batangas City
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Mr. Manolo Ungo
Fausto Hugo Talong Bag Marilao Bulacan
Telefax (044) 933-1214 Easy Cell 141 267284
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
203 Poblet Tarlac Bahay Bulacan
Tel No. (044) 765-1280
Office Care Communications
Bahay Shopping Center 2nd Floor (SAO Building
Santiago St. Poblacion Bahay Bulacan
Cabanatuan City
Mr. Ruel Capule
#7 Santarosa Street, Kapt Pepe Subdivision
Cabanatuan City Nueva Ecija
Tel No. (044) 463-0823 E-mail: rcap@mozcom.com
City Supermart
Sanjuanga Street, Cabanatuan City Nueva Ecija
Tel No. (044) 463 1149
Mr. Hayward Pablo
#837 Zurroz Street Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel No. (044) 463-2002

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Hommer John L. Manzano
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Pampanga
Mr. Noel Cabanero
Lot 4 Block 25 Phase II
Corner St. Peter and St. Jude Streets
St. Jude Village San Fernando Pampanga
Tel No. (045)963 3719/(0918) 906 6249
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By BONG BARRAMEDA

Smell & tell

Q. Why do we put perfume on the wrist when trying out a perfume?

A. There's a scientific reason that many may not be aware of. People, women especially, put perfume on their wrists because there is a pulse point there. Pulse points are located whenever the pulse of the heartbeat is closest to the surface of the skin. A pulse point generates heat which intensifies a perfume's impact. Other pulse points: behind the ears, the nape of the neck, the bosom, the crook of the elbows, behind the knees, and at the ankles. Obviously, it is easier for a consumer to apply perfume to the wrist than the back of the knee, at least 'in a department store.

For the Record. In 1709 an Italian barber named Jean-Baptiste Farina arrived in Cologne, Germany, to seek his fortune in the fragrance trade. Among his special concoctions was an alcohol-based blend of lemon spirits, orange bitters, and mint oil from a pear-shaped bergamot fruit. His creation was the world's *first eau de Cologne*, 'water of Cologne,' later shortened to just cologne. While the city of Cologne was famous in the Middle Ages for its great cathedral, containing the shrine of the Magi, after Farina's creation it became known throughout Europe as the major producer of cologne.

Past Forward. This day in 1901: Arrival of the 'Thomasites,' the largest group in a wave of pioneering American teachers, in Manila aboard the steamer USS. Thomas, thus their name.

WORD WATCH

Didactic (dye dak tik) : too much inclined to teach others; boringly pedantic or moralistic.

PDI – August 24, 2002

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Our Dearly Beloved Father

Ret. Brig. Gen. MANUEL SIBUCAO LOPEZ

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 22, 2002 at the age of 62.

His wife **Hedy Fuentebella**; loving children **Abner Anthony**, **Joseph Gary**, **Julie Marie**, **Ma. Liza**; daughter-in-law **Gemma**; and grandson **John Paul**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Fr. Willmann Chapel of the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Daily Masses will be offered at 7:00 p.m. every evening.

Interment will be on Monday, August 26, 2002 at 12:00 high noon at the Libingan ng mga Bayani at Fort Bonifacio, Makati City after the 10:00 a.m. funeral Mass.

NORMA DOLOR LOPEZ

Peacefully joined her Creator
on the 23rd day of August 2002
at the age of 75.

A committed wife to **Eusebio Lopez, Jr.** (†)

A wonderful mother to **Benjie**, **Marissa** and **Anton Terbraak**, **Besol**, **Bel** and **Virgil Villavicencio**, **Jojo**, **Pia** and **Angelo Arellano**.

A great "nanay" to grandchildren **Marc** and **Natasha**, **Joma**, **Gino**, **Alyssa** and **Joshua**.

A loving sister to **Jaime** and **Etta** (†), **Nato** and **Cora**, **Loloy** and **Menchit**.

We, her children, request all those whose lives have been touched by our beloved mother, to pray for her soul as she is born into Eternal Life.

Her remains lie in state at the National Shrine of the Divine Child, La Salle Greenhills, Ortigas.

Interment will be on Monday, August 26, 2002, at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the National Shrine of the Divine Child.

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Message of Thanks

The family of the late

PURIFICACION R. PEREZ

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 10, 2002

Sincerely thank all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, gave generous gifts, and those who extended their support and services, and who in countless ways condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Her memory will live on in our hearts and minds in all of us whose lives she has touched.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
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MESSAGE OF THANKS
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REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"Rejoice in the Lord always,
I say again, Rejoice."

Rogelio "Noning" Lomada Lizada

Former PNB Board Director
Knight of the Order of Saint Sylvester
Chairman, Philippine Centennial Movement, Davao Chapter
President, L & A Resort and Restaurants, Inc.
President, NCL Food Industry Inc.

Joined his Creator on August 21, 2002
at the age of 74.

His wife **Rosario**; together with his children and grandchildren **Rene** and **Chona**, **Miguel**, **Raphael** and **Gabriel**, **Amylou** and **Mathew**, **Carlo** and **Roberto**, **Benjamin** and **Fides**, **Jaime** and **Leandro**, **Aileen** and **Julian**; ask that you join in our prayers for the eternal repose of **Noning**.

His remains are at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Parlor, Camus Street, Davao City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 24, 2002 at the Davao Memorial Park after 8:00 a.m. Mass at Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Maa, Davao City.

"The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in verdant pastures.
In restful waters He leads me.
He refreshes my soul."
- Psalm 23

RODOLFO C. FONACIER

peacefully joined his Creator on August 21, 2002
at the age of 71.

His loving wife, Virginia, his children Ton & San, Laga & Ely, Yet & Bimbo, Bob & Gigi, his grandchildren She, Jay-Jay, Jun-Jun, JB, Lelen, Josh, Sam, May & JR; brothers Romeo, Marcelo & Dominador, sisters Eligia, Virginia & Ofelia, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at **St. Ignatius Funeral Homes, Boni Serrano Avenue, Quezon City.**

He will be brought to Libon, Albay on Sunday, August 25.
Interment is on August 27, 2002 at 2:00 PM.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

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102 years

Alicia Tambunting Crame y Tomacruz

Peacefully joined her Creator
on August 22, 2002 at the age of 79.

Her loving children **Ronnie** and **Deedee**, **Noel** and **Ellen**; brothers and wives **Manny** and **Nena**, **Louie** and **Cely**, **Carding** and **Ofie**, **Arthur** and **Clarita** (†), **Bebot** and **Norma**; other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz, inside Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, August 25, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park after the 7:00 AM Mass.

ELINO "ELY" P. RODRIGUEZ

Peacefully joined our Creator, his father DOMINADOR and his son DENNIS on August 10, 2002 at the age of 56.

His loving mother SIDRA; wife MAURA and children NOEL, ADOR & ROWENA, DINDO & NOREEN; grandchildren MIGUEL, CHRISTIAN, KIT & ADRIAN; sisters, brothers-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 060 Violeta Street, Tomasa Subdivision, Ususan, Taguig, Metro Manila.

The funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Ignatius of Loyola on August 27, 2002 at 2:00 PM. Interment will follow at Taguig Private Cemetery.

LUISA MANOTOK GONZALES, M.D.

Returned to our Lord and Joined her
beloved husband Cirilo G. Gonzalez M.D.
in eternal life on her 89th Birthday
in the evening of August 22, 2002.

She was a devoted sister to **Clara A. Manotok**, **Fidela Manotok-Muñoz**, **Angela Toribio-Manotok** and in-laws, loving Tita to nephews and nieces, **Cesar & Nita Muñoz**, **Oscar & Lina Muñoz**, **Antonio Muñoz Jr.**, **Cecile & Charlie Tan**, **Norma & Mike Paraiso**, **Rose & Glenn Obusan**, **Tessie & Henry Gozon**, **Nini & Charlie Cruz**, **Baby & Rudy Garcia** and **Bogie & Cynthia Manotok** and doting Lola to her grandnieces and grandnephews.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Mortuary, Chapel 3, Magallanes Village, Makati City. Daily Masses will be at 7:00 p.m., Sunday Mass will be at 8:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 27, 2002 at the North Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. funeral Mass.

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Fun fitness for free with Pasoo Sept. 8

EVERY year, the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (Pasoo) sets aside the first week of September for the observance of anti-obesity and prevention week.

A fitness walk with the theme, "Walk While You Can" will be held Sept. 8, 5:30 to 10 a.m. at the grounds of Fort Bonifacio. There will be a celebration of the Holy Mass at 8 a.m. to be followed by a breakfast and a short program to be hosted by celebrities. All health professionals and fitness enthusiasts are invited to this affair. Sanirose S. Orbeta and Joey Sy of Roche Philippines are in charge of organizing this event.

On Sept. 13, a one-day scientific conference will be held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong from 8 to 5 p.m. Celeste C. Tanchoco, this year's convention chair has lined up interesting and controversial topics in weight management to be discussed by experts.

The officers and board members of Pasoo headed by Dr. Augusto Litonjua will be present to interact with the participants of the conference. The stellar activity for this year's convention will be the launch of the Whiz Kids for Fitness program. It is an ambitious pilot research study with the grade school department of St. Scholastica's College and the Obesity Task Force headed by Dr. Rodolfo Florentino and Dr. Rosa Allyn Sy with Sanirose S. Orbeta and Celeste Tanchoco as members. This is the first time a young age group has been studied.

Interested parties may call 531-1278 for early registration for the convention and other details.

INQUIRER WELCOMES US AMBASSADOR

The Inquirer recently hosted a lunch in honor of the new US Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone. As Chief of Mission and the primary US government representative to the Philippines, Ricciardone defines mission goals and objectives, coordinates inter-agency action, and represents US foreign policy interests to the Philippine government. He is also responsible for 1,245 staffers—of which about 1,000 are Filipino—in 26 federal agencies. Simultaneously accredited to the Republic of Palau, Ricciardone was officially appointed Feb. 12.

Ricciardone is shown with Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto, publisher Isagani Yambot, senior vice president for corporate services David Valdes, columnist Amando Doronila, editor-in-chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, vice president for finance Luis Ymson, corporate relations manager Celine Madamba, Inquirer director Dennis Valdes, senior vice president for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso, US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Joseph Mussomeli, and counselor for public affairs Ronald Post.

JWT SUPPORTS CREATIVITY IN SCHOOLS

The dynamic, open-minded high school curriculum specialists of the Bureau of Secondary Education of the Department of Education is excited to infuse more creativity in schools with the help of top advertising company J. Walter Thompson. In an introductory workshop, JWT explained how creativity could help people 'solve problems, discover their strengths and live happier lives.' To generate more creativity in schools, JWT proposed the encouragement of 'intellectual rebellion' instead of uniformity and regimentation. JWT and DepEd had previously tied up for the Arts and Kraft art education program of Kraft Philippines. Last year, JWT launched the Malang Art Scholarship fund to help fine arts students through college. JWT also handles the communication requirements of Unicef and the Partnership for Clean Air.

The Quezonians 1923 Inc 79th Anniversary grand ball

THE QUEZONIANS 1923 Inc., a socio-civic organization composed of men and women from the province of Quezon who are into various professional and business pursuits, is having its 79th anniversary grand ball tonight at the Westin Philippine Plaza Grand Ballroom. This year's ball would bring the guests back to Quezon Province's illustrious past as early as the 1920s, remembering, of course, its most famous offspring President Manuel L. Quezon. "The simplicity and subtle elegance of that era is something that we should remember and learn from, especially during these trying and complicated times. It is also nice to look back and appreciate our rich past and know for a fact that we should be proud to be Quezonians", quips Salvador "Benny" Clemente, who along with president Elvira "Bim" Castillo, are the brains behind the Quezonian's main charity event this year.

The icing on the cake would be the coronation of the 2002 Quezonians 1923 muse Rachelle Ticzon Clemente. The statuesque 22-year-old is a recent graduate of De La Salle University with a bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science. She is the daughter of Quezonian president Benny T. Clemente and Ophelia Ticzon Clemente. She will be escorted by Carmelo Jerico S. Dayrit, a senior at De La Salle University taking up Business Management. His parents are Philippine Olympic Committee chair Celso Dayrit and Cynthia S. Dayrit.

Legendary songbird Sylvia La Torre and popular tenor Nolyn Cabahug will serenade guests with their rendition of nostalgic *kundiman* songs.

Some of the evening's other highlights would be a dance performance by the young Quezonians featuring a medley of music harking back from the '20s, '30s and '40s. This year's ball organizers decided to do away with the traditional Rigodon de Honor and are going to perform a beautiful dance number entitled "Recuerdos Alegres", both choreographed by the talented Budjing Danao.

Dance music shall be provided by the irrepressible Lady Valerie and her Orchestra. For tickets to this much-awaited event, call Grace Alcañeses at 437-0984, Linda Diamante at 411-4833, Cathy Bala at 526-7128 and Sweet Valencia at 833-2847.

EPLDT MANAGED ANTI-VIRUS SERVICE PROVIDER

Trend Micro Inc., a leader in network anti-virus and Internet security software and services, has assigned ePLDT as the only managed anti-virus service provider in the Philippines. ePLDT's managed anti-virus service from the D-fence Managed Security Services line, powered by Trend Micro products and services, protects the flow of information from the Internet gateway down to the desktop level. Shown seated, from left, are Emmanuel P. Dizon, ePLDT chief technology officer, Ariel A. Roda and Ray C. Espinosa, ePLDT managing directors, Jeffrey C. Sy, Trend Micro country business development director, and Art D. Africa, Trend Micro corporation solutions manager. Standing, from left, are Manuel G. Bausa, ePLDT data security manager, Erville D. Magtubo, ePLDT alliance and channels manager, Kay Lenz M. Rumaguera, Trend Micro channel business associate manager, and Jon I. Enriquez, Trend Micro systems engineering group associate manager.

ZURICH APPOINTS NEW CEO

Zurich Philippines' new CEO Pia Yturzaeta (4th from left) and the rest of her all-Filipino management team recently made a courtesy call to Insurance Commissioner Eduardo T. Malinis (3rd from left). Yturzaeta was former vice president for strategic support unit and chief financial officer prior to her new post, taking over from Hermann Lischer who has taken a new assignment as CEO of Zurich India. Supporting Yturzaeta are (from left) chief actuary Roy Racela, vice president for strategic business unit-personal Leandro Estrera, vice president for strategic support unit/chief financial officer Noel Molina, and vice president for strategic business unit-corporate Frank Ramos. Zurich Philippines is fully owned by the Zurich Financial Services Group (ZFSG) based in Switzerland.

BITS Clips

Grapes protect heart, like wine

A GROWING body of research suggests that the polyphenols in wine and juice—also found in table grapes—are largely responsible for heart-protective benefits. "Several investigators now believe fresh grapes and wine are equally cardioprotective", said Dr. Dipak K. Das, principal investigator of a study recently published in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences. "I studied individual grape polyphenols, which are antioxidants and highly cardioprotective, and now we have worked with whole grapes, which have the same effects." From Aug. 27 to Oct. 9, California Table Grapes again relaunches its successful Health Station Mall Tour in Robinsons Ermita and Galleria, SM North Edsa, Fairview, Megamall and San Fernando, Pampanga. These stations entitle California Table Grapes customers to free health check-ups.

Marketing expert keynotes seminar

MARKETING author, Agora awardee, and former Philippine Marketing Association president Josiah Go will keynote the "Marketing Implementation: From Plan to Performance" seminar of Mansmith and Fielders Inc. (723-6671 or 722-2318) from Aug. 27 to 29 at the Edsa Shangri-La. The seminar teaches marketers how to convert marketing plans and strategies into the desired marketing performance. It shows how to use marketing implementation to sustain competitive advantage in the fast-changing marketing environment through five key modules. The seminar will use Philippine industry-based examples and frameworks. A combination of interactive lectures and workshops will also be used.

'The perfect business'

ARE YOU someone who wants to have a successful business of your own? If so, it could be worth your while to attend the "Finding the Perfect Business", part 1 of the Entrepreneurial Evolution Workshop series. This workshop puts you ahead of 85 percent of the population and increases by 90 percent your odds of achieving success in your own business. Sandy Tabar, a personal and business coach, author of the soon-to-be-released "A Simply Abundant Life" and creator of the Entrepreneurial Evolution workshop, will conduct the sessions. The fee covers materials, lunch and snacks, a free subscription to a graduate newsletter, and free one-on-one coaching sessions after the workshop. It will be held on Aug. 25, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Manila Galleria Suites, Ortigas Center. For inquiries and reservations, call 259-1155.

Sta. Lucia Kadayawan grand marshal

STA. LUCIA Realty and Development Inc. will be the grand marshal of Kadayawan's floral float parade on Aug. 25, as announced by Froilan Ampil, president of the Kadayawan sa Davao Foundation and chair of its ways and means. There will be 43 participating floral floats, of which 14 are competing in the large category and 7 competing in the small category. Sta. Lucia's executive committee is headed by Exequiel Robles, CEO. The company's desire to be one with Davao's metropolitan populace is embodied in its participation in Davao's Kadayawan, the city's premier celebration held in thanks to the city's God-given bounty, natural beauty, rich culture, and the warmth of its people. Sta. Lucia is currently developing the South Pacific Golf and Leisure Estates in Catalunan Pequeno, the South Trellis at Rancho Palos Verdes, the Alta Monte residential estates in Tigatto, and the Davao Riverfront Corporate City, among others.

Product FILES

Mojave convertible eyewear from Quantum

QUANTUM Global's latest product Mojave, an imported total eyewear system with six pairs of interchangeable lenses (Blue Eyes, Bright Amber, Cool Smoke, Polarized Steel Grey, Ultra Mauve, Crystal Clear), each with their own unique shape and color, can make you look a fashion plate, a yuppie and a professional in a snap whether you're at work, in socials or at leisure. The lenses are both scratch and shatter proof. Mojave's two European-style frames (black and silver) are made of memory resin that bends and moulds to custom fit your face. They are also incredibly lightweight.

Mojave is the latest urbanite's accessory to hit the Philippines, and it goes for P1,995 per set.

Quantum Global's showcase is at Quantum Building, 9725 to 27 Kamagong Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City with telephone numbers 896-8528. Free deliveries for orders within Metro Manila. This product is available in all Ideal Vision, Toby's and Sportshouse outlets nationwide.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang • Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

EXPERTS' WARNING

Deadly parasites in your favorite food

By Tessa R. Salazar

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Kinilaw—the ultimate reflection of the richness of Philippine cuisine and a favorite in the Ilocos region, Visayas and Mindanao.

Bising, a native of Compostela Valley in Southern Mindanao, loves *kinilaw*, especially that of fish.

One day last year, however, she suddenly felt extremely weak. The 31-year-old woman felt like she was 70.

Bising was diagnosed to have intestinal capillariasis. The proper diagnosis came only after her stool specimen was examined by a group of specialists focusing on parasites. She took all the medications the doctor prescribed, and in 10 days she got well.

Other people in her area, who were also fond of *kinilaw*, were not that lucky. Many died.

Like many food-borne parasites, intestinal capillariasis is acquired through ingestion of raw fish. This parasitic disease was seen in epidemics in Northern Luzon in the 1960s. The small but deadly capillaria worms prevent the absorption of nutrients in the intestines. Those who get infected end up malnourished and eventually die.

Reemerging parasitism

Intestinal capillariasis has been identified with other parasitic diseases as a reemerging parasitic infection that is fatal if not diagnosed and treated appropriately. The worm multiplies inside the body, and eventually takes control of the host and kills it.

Dr. Vicente Y. Belizario of the Department of Parasitology of the University of the Philippines-Manila College of Public Health said intestinal capillariasis presents itself with chronic diarrhea. He is part of the Helminthiasis Study Group (HSG) that focuses on reemerging parasites in the country.

Belizario said intestinal capillariasis was thought to exist only in Northern Luzon until it was also found in Leyte and Agusan del Norte. Then in 1998 an outbreak killed 17 people in the depressed villages of Monkayo, Compostela Valley in Southern Mindanao. People in the area suffered from chronic diarrhea and many of them died "mysteriously."

The HSG warned the Department of Health of a possible outbreak of capillariasis after the HSG collected specimens from victims. The group documented capillariasis in 22 percent of the people surveyed.

'Sinugba'

If capillaria worms ride on raw fish, other parasites lie waiting in pork and beef. Tapeworms can survive in half-cooked broiled pork (*sinugba*) and usually thrive in northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

A tapeworm can grow up to a few meters in length. Tapeworms can end up in the brain, usually mistaken for a tumor or lesion, and cause seizures.

"Presumably, what happens in remote places is that infected people experience seizures and headaches, and then they die and get labeled as having brain tumor," said Belizario.

He said, however, that it is easy to stop tapeworms if diagnosed and treated properly and on time.

TB or not TB

The trouble with pulmonary paragonimiasis (lung fluke disease) is that it mimics tuberculosis. Victims of lung flukes could be mistaken as having TB and be treated as such. They take anti-TB medicines but they don't get any better.

Lung fluke disease and TB are overlapping public health problems in many countries, according to the HSG. The irony is that while TB affects billions of people, lung fluke is accorded little significance on the global health agenda, the group said. Around 20 million people are infected with lung fluke disease.

TB and lung fluke disease are pulmonary diseases with similar clinical manifestations of chronic cough and bloody phlegm, back and chest pains, weight loss and fever.

Several years ago, the HSG was requested by the municipal health office of Irosin, Sorsogon, for technical advice on the management of "resistant TB cases." The team found out that five of the nine patients who were reported as "nonresponders" to years of anti-TB treatment were actually harboring lung fluke eggs.

The HSG also found out the epidemiology of paragonimiasis and its overlapping relationship with TB. It screened patients suspected to have TB and found that 16 percent of residents had paragonimiasis. This suggested the extent of misdiagnosis and the potential wastage of resources resulting from unnecessary anti-TB treatments.

Belizario warned that lung fluke can co-exist with TB. This calls for proper detection and training. But local health units usually don't report things that they don't recognize and they lack the capability to detect parasites. All it takes, however, is a sputum exam and a competent person to read and to diagnose.

The HSG can provide the technical expertise, Belizario said, but it needs assistance from the health department in deploying its experts.

Intestinal fluke infection

Another reemerging parasite is intestinal heterophyidiasis, or intestinal fluke infection.

The HSG and the DOH Essential National Health Research found unexpectedly high number of intestinal heterophyidiasis cases in Monkayo in 2000.

In a bigger community-based survey, 36 percent of residents were found to have fish-borne intestinal fluke.

Intestinal fluke may mimic peptic ulcer and produce the same symptoms like abdominal discomfort and bowel disturbance. With the help of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, researchers found that the parasites were riding on fish and other aquatic animals, which in turn served as food sources of the residents.

Most parasites ride on animals before transferring to humans.

"It's the animals who consume raw food and because we eat the way they do, we get the diseases that are normally acquired by these animals," said Belizario.

The feces of animals, which can transmit parasites, are disposed of in streams and aquatic organisms feed on this waste.

"The fish eat the feces and the people eat the fish," Belizario said.

"In parasitology, we talk about cycles. If you complete the cycle, you will find the transmission," he said.

The cycle ensures that the parasites will survive with us for as long we do.

It's up to humans to break the cycle.

Voice from the wilderness

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

JUST a few days ago scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany and the Wellcome Trust Center for Human Genetics at Oxford announced they had found a gene that played a major role in "the development of human culture." And in those last five words lies the problem I have with accepting such news.

In a paper published in Nature last Aug. 15, the gene FOXP2 was linked to the ability to speak. These findings were based on the study of a family in which several members were severely speech impaired in terms of articulating their thoughts (and grammatically, although this did not seem to be directly related to the genetic defect). Researchers found that those who had the speech problem had a defective copy of the FOXP2 gene, hence their conclusions as to the gene's functions.

What the paper doesn't talk about, however, is exactly how the gene impairs speech. Does it cause problems with facial muscles, making it impossible to pronounce words correctly? Does it affect the larynx or the tongue? Unfortunately, the scientists didn't focus on this, in part because they didn't really know the answer themselves. Future papers will have to reveal that information.

Svante Pääbo and his colleagues found that the FOXP2 gene was very conserved—only 5 percent of genes found in humans remain essentially unchanged over time, and these are often found to serve important functions that no other gene can duplicate. They also found the same gene in mice, gorillas, chimps, orangutans and rhesus monkeys, but they wondered why none of these animals could speak like humans.

By comparing the DNA sequences for the gene in each species with the human FOXP2 gene sequence, researchers found that there were very minute differences—one to three molecules had been changed in the animals' version of the FOXP2 gene.

This suggests, theoretically, that animals do not have the ability to speak as humans because of their inability to make certain facial movements, among other possibilities. But if their gene sequences were altered to match ours then it might be possible to communicate with them as we do with each other. This, of course, assumes that the theory is correct, and that people actually want to know what the animals have to say, which may not always be the case.

Beginnings of culture

The most controversial part of the paper has to do with the calculations the researchers did to determine when the working copy of the gene was passed on to every human being. By knowing when the gene was "fixed" into every human's DNA sequence, scientists can then theoretically set the date on the beginnings of language and, therefore, human culture.

Since these calculations require the help of several computer programs, and we don't have the space to explain what these programs do and what variables, formulas, etc. are involved (to the delight of many), interested readers should go read the original paper itself and feel free to verify the aforementioned calculations.

Basically, the scientists ended up saying that according to their calculations, the FOXP2 gene was "fixed" within the last 200,000 years, give or take 10,000 to 100,000 years. (I did mention the calculations were complicated, didn't I?)

Because every human being had the right FOXP2 gene at least 100,000 years ago, Pääbo et al. go on to say, human culture must have progressed at an unbelievable pace from that point onward.

A bit much

A few months ago, the evolution of man was partly attributed to his need for cooked food—a plausible theory.

But to attribute the origin of human culture to a gene that allows man to speak is a bit much. It implies that the only thing that separates man from ape is his ability to speak, when researchers working with primates, or any other animal for that matter, would argue that every species they study has a means of communicating with each other. Many researchers would also argue that their studies would point to other species having a culture of their own as well.

A distinction between the terms "culture" and "civilization" has to be made. After all, the advancement of human civilization has been attributed to everything from toilets to roads to television to the space station. Could human culture—the sum of all that human beings have said, thought or done—have started even without the FOXP2 gene that helps man speak? Is one gene, or even a host of genes for that matter, responsible for human culture and its development?

While language, both oral and written, is an important part of all human cultures, its importance in the field of evolutionary biology is difficult to pinpoint. People may argue that without the ability to speak there can be no culture, a statement that would only irk hearing-impaired communities, who would be happy to argue against the idea.

Many people dream of being able to talk to animals the way Dr. Doolittle (looking like either Rex Harrison or Eddie Murphy, take your pick) does in children's stories. Pet psychics may have found a way to bypass the oral speech problem, but one has to wonder if the psychic is speaking the animal's language or vice versa. Since no psychic is going to explain how he does it exactly (and possibly lose his means of livelihood), that is one question that may never be answered.

Gov't funds IT projects

(Last of two parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST week we looked at recent initiatives by the government in the area of IT—the establishment of ICT parks, the E-commerce Act and partnerships with the private sector, notably Intel. Now we will discuss IT developments elsewhere.

• **Mindanao food processors.** In Davao City the Department of Science and Technology launched a site catering to the information needs of the food processing industry in Mindanao. The websites are www.kahoy.cvis.net.ph and www.zambonet.adzu.ph/dost9/food.

According to Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro, our growing capabilities in computing and telecommunications as well as development in information infrastructure have created major new challenges and opportunities in Mindanao that must be addressed.

The system aims to provide the latest information on the status of food processing stakeholders and their respective products, including deep-sea fish and other marine products, meat, fruits and vegetables, cereal and dairy produce. Through the site the market for these products will be more aggressively promoted. A total of 127 records have already been encoded in the database.

• **Laboratory and computer equipment for Western Mindanao schools.** The Science Education Institute (SEI) has given the Curuan National High School in Zamboanga City (which has 1,000 students) apparatus for science experiments, videotapes, interactive science and math CDs and computer-based teaching modules. The modules aid in teaching about chromosomes, meiosis and photosynthesis (biology); chemical bonding, heat exchange and dissolution (chemistry); interference, polarization and electromagnetic induction (physics); and polynomials, logarithms and quadratic inequalities (algebra).

The Maluso National High School in Basilan received 10 units of Pentium III computers as well as CD drives and inkjet printers.

These two efforts are part of SEI's attempts to upgrade the science skills of students in depressed areas.

• **PCs for Laguna public high schools.** The Department of Trade and Industry turned over P12.6-million worth of computer laboratory packages to 21 public high schools in Laguna. Each school received a package consisting of 20 PCs preloaded with software applications from Microsoft, two printers, one external modem and one external CD-ROM. Faculty members were trained on basic hardware operation, troubleshooting and maintenance.

According to DTI Secretary Mar Roxas, the project aims to give students a chance to become IT professionals and to get better-paying jobs in the future. Entry-level positions have an initial monthly pay of P15,000 plus P6,000 in benefits.

The Japanese government also helped make this project possible through the Non-Project Assistance II. The beneficiaries were Aplaya, Balibago, Barretto, Biñan, Cabuyao, Calamba, Calumpang, JZ Gonzales MSAT, Los Baños Community, Los Baños, Masaya, Maulawin, Pedro Guevarra, Plaridel, Rizal, San Francisco, San Juan, San Pablo, Siniloan, Sta. Catalina and Talangan National high schools.

I am heartened by all these developments, although a word of caution is needed. Strengthening our national capacity in ICT and related technologies is important, but what is essential is ensuring the quality of basic science and mathematics education. The computer can do many things, but the human mind is even more powerful.

* * *

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

The case of the deadly santol seeds, a rejoinder

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

EAT the fruit but don't swallow the seeds unless you want to get into trouble.

The Department of Surgery of the Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center (OMMC) headed by Dr. Reynaldo Joson once again issued an advisory to warn the public on the hazards of swallowing santol seeds.

Santol is a seasonal tropical fruit with seeds half the size of chestnuts.

"We strongly advise the public not to swallow santol seeds because they can cause unnecessary and premature death," warns Dr. Joson.

Reported death

Dr. Joson reports that a 47-year-old female vendor died recently as a result of complication of swallowed santol seeds. She ate about 10 Bangkok santols and swallowed all the seeds, about 30 to 40 of them. Three to four days later, she went to the OMMC because of severe abdominal pain that could not be relieved by medicines.

She had excruciating pain all over the abdomen when palpated by the physician. With a diagnosis of perforated intestines secondary to the swallowed seeds, an operation was immediately performed. Upon opening the abdomen, feces were seen spilled all over the abdominal cavity, leaking out from three perforations in the large intestines.

The perforations were caused by the sharp ends of the santol seeds.

Surgeons had to remove the segment of the large intestine with the perforations, and make a colostomy, which is an artificial anus on the abdominal wall. They spent a lot of time cleaning the abdominal cavity to remove the feces.

The surgeons tried their best to save the patient but on the fourth day, the patient died of uncontrollable and irreversible infection in the blood stream, called septicemia.

"Most of the time, the seeds will be passed through the anus during bowel movement," Dr. Joson explains.

"However, in some cases the seeds may cause intestinal obstruction by sticking together to form a hard bolus of seeds or by completely plugging the intestinal lumen that has been previously and partially constricted by a disease like a tumor or tuberculosis."

He adds that the seeds may also cause perforation of the intestines. After the fibers enveloping the seed have been digested, the remaining shell, which is indigestible, is usually sharp at its two ends. These sharp ends can perforate a normal intestinal wall especially if it has been weakened by a disease or a degenerative condition, such as repeated inflammation or diverticulosis of the intestines.

The resulting perforation will result in a spillage of feces into the abdominal cavity causing peritonitis, which is a serious infection of the lining of the abdomen and the entire abdominal cavity. If surgery is not done promptly, the infection can get into the bloodstream and this may lead to death.

Intestinal obstruction and perforation caused by swallowed santol seeds require resection-anastomosis surgery, which consists of cutting out and discarding the damaged parts of the intestines and reconnecting the cut ends together. Occasionally, the surgeon may do a colostomy.

Complications, including death, due to swallowed santol seeds are more frequent in the older age group. The age of patients in the OMMC report ranged from 45 to 65 years.

"This is most likely due to the higher incidence of abnormalities in the intestines in the older age group compared to the younger population," explains Dr. Joson.

Although the complications are not as common in the young as in the middle or older age group, the outpatient department of the OMMC warns both the young and the old.

"As we know, habits are hard to break when they're deeply instilled in the individual at a young age; one grows old with the habit," says Dr. Joson.

Public health problem

According to Dr. Joson, the debilitation and deaths associated with swallowing santol seeds have reached such a magnitude to consider it a public health problem.

The OMMC surgical department cautions that this problem carries a risk of premature death, even in an otherwise healthy individual.

"Our department feels that death from swallowing santol seeds is unnecessary and can easily be prevented by simply not doing it. Unfortunately, our countrymen simply would not heed the repeated advisories we have made in the past," laments Dr. Joson.

Lack of public awareness

The doctor added that their recent case was not an isolated one. Similar santol seed accidents have been reported in various hospitals. Most of these cases are not being reported, hence the low awareness about the hazards of swallowing santol seeds.

Last year, during the santol season, OMMC and the Philippine General Hospital had several cases.

"Short of a registry, we feel that death from swallowing santol seeds is reaching or has reached a public health magnitude such that a health advisory is necessary," says Dr. Joson.

He adds that the OMMC surgery department is starting a registry on swallowed santol seeds requiring surgery on the abdomen. Reports on cases may be included in the registry through e-mail: rjoson2001@yahoo.com.

Dr. Joson adds the following advice: "If santol seeds are accidentally swallowed, watch out for abdominal pain. If abdominal pain occurs, consult an abdominal surgeon (general surgeon) right away. He will give the necessary advice on what to do next."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2002

US investors back BIR reforms

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Inc. yesterday supported government plans to reform the Bureau of Internal Revenue and transform the state's biggest cash-collecting agency to a more credible and efficient group as proposed by a legislation called the Internal Revenue Management Authority.

Resistance to reforms initiated by resigned BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez was blamed for the bureau's weak collection that led to a shortfall of about P35 billion in the first seven months.

Collecting 80 percent of the government's revenues every year, the BIR's poor collection was largely blamed for the swollen budget deficit of P133 billion in the first seven months, a number that exceeded the full-year target of P130 billion.

An umbrella group of 17 nongovernment organizations called Transparency and Accountability Network or TAN also supported the reforms initiated by Bañez.

The Bañez reforms were comprised of two steps. First is the reorganization of the BIR's functions into four taxpayers units and this was mandated by EO 114 approved by Malacañang last July 29.

The second step is the transformation of the bureau into the Irma.

"It is about time that we give our all-out support for persons who can put order in the government's largest cash-generating agency so that the BIR can be restored, if not transformed, into a credible and efficient organization," said Amcham acting president Donald Felbaum in a letter to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Irma, embodied in House Bill No. 5054 filed by Speaker Jose de Venecia last July 31, would essentially create a new BIR where the head of the bureau would be appointed by a revenue board composed of government and private sector leaders instead of Malacañang.

The head of the new BIR or Irma would have the power to hire and fire people, demote and promote, and give bonuses or impose sanctions depending on the performance of employees.

TAN, the nongovernment organization, said that it recognized the value of these reforms as they usher in transparency and accountability in the bureau, promote efficiency in responding to the needs of taxpayers and ultimately raise collection revenue to meet targets and fund the operations of the government.

The BIR must raise P422.5 billion this year to help the government contain the budget gap to a level close to its target of P130 billion. Investment banks, credit rating firms, and private sector leaders, however, believed that the best the government could do was to limit the fiscal gap to P155 billion.

The Amcham and the transparency network group also supported the performance-based standards that the government vowed to implement in the BIR.

Camacho said that revenue officers who would not meet their collection targets would face sanctions.

Bañez's problems with the bureaucracy in the BIR peaked in Aug. 16 when employees protested the Irma as they feared that the new BIR would threaten their employment.

Amari ruling worries Thai investors

By Doris C. Dumlao

A GROUP of Thai investors with minority interests in the 750-hectare Philippine Estates Authority-Amari coastal bay project yesterday voiced grave concern over the Supreme Court ruling revoking the controversial joint venture development deal.

Former Philippine Ambassador to Thailand Reynaldo Arcilla, who currently sits as a director of publicly listed Cyber Bay Corp. (representing about 17 percent in equity interest held by two big Thai property developers), told reporters that the ruling was a big blow to the country's efforts to attract much-needed foreign investments.

Specifically, he said the Thai investors who joined the project upon the invitation of then President Ramos were now having doubts on the country's prospects.

"They were confident that after the renegotiation of the contract (during the Estrada regime), the project could finally get off the ground," Arcilla said at the sidelines of yesterday's Cyber Bay annual stockholders' meeting.

"They are very disheartened because they were confident that everything was going smoothly and now, while they are not thinking of getting out of the project because they have invested so much already, they are beginning to wonder whether the government is serious in attracting and keeping foreign investors in the Philippines."

Arcilla warned that the ruling, which was currently under appeal, was sending the wrong signal not only to foreign but local investors as well. He noted that for its part, the coastal bay project was now controlled by a local group.

"Procter & Gamble has relocated to Thailand. General Motors did not come here and instead went to Thailand. These are the bigger considerations," he said.

A group led by businessman Ramon Ang, known as the right-hand man of San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, earlier diluted the interests of a consortium led by the Ital-Thai group and took over a controlling stake in Centennial City Inc., which was renamed Cyber Bay.

Spanish fund eyed for hydro project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE-RUN PNOC Energy Development Corp. announced it was studying the feasibility of putting up a $20-million (P100-million) small hydroelectric power plant in Oriental Mindoro.

PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol said in an interview the facility would have a capacity of about 20 megawatts and hopefully would be undertaken with funding from the government of Spain.

"We expect to have the feasibility study completed within a month," Apostol said.

He added that PNOC-EDC aimed to have a design for the project drawn up by September in time for President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to Spain.

The former Leyte congressman said the small hydro plant would be powered by a waterfall.

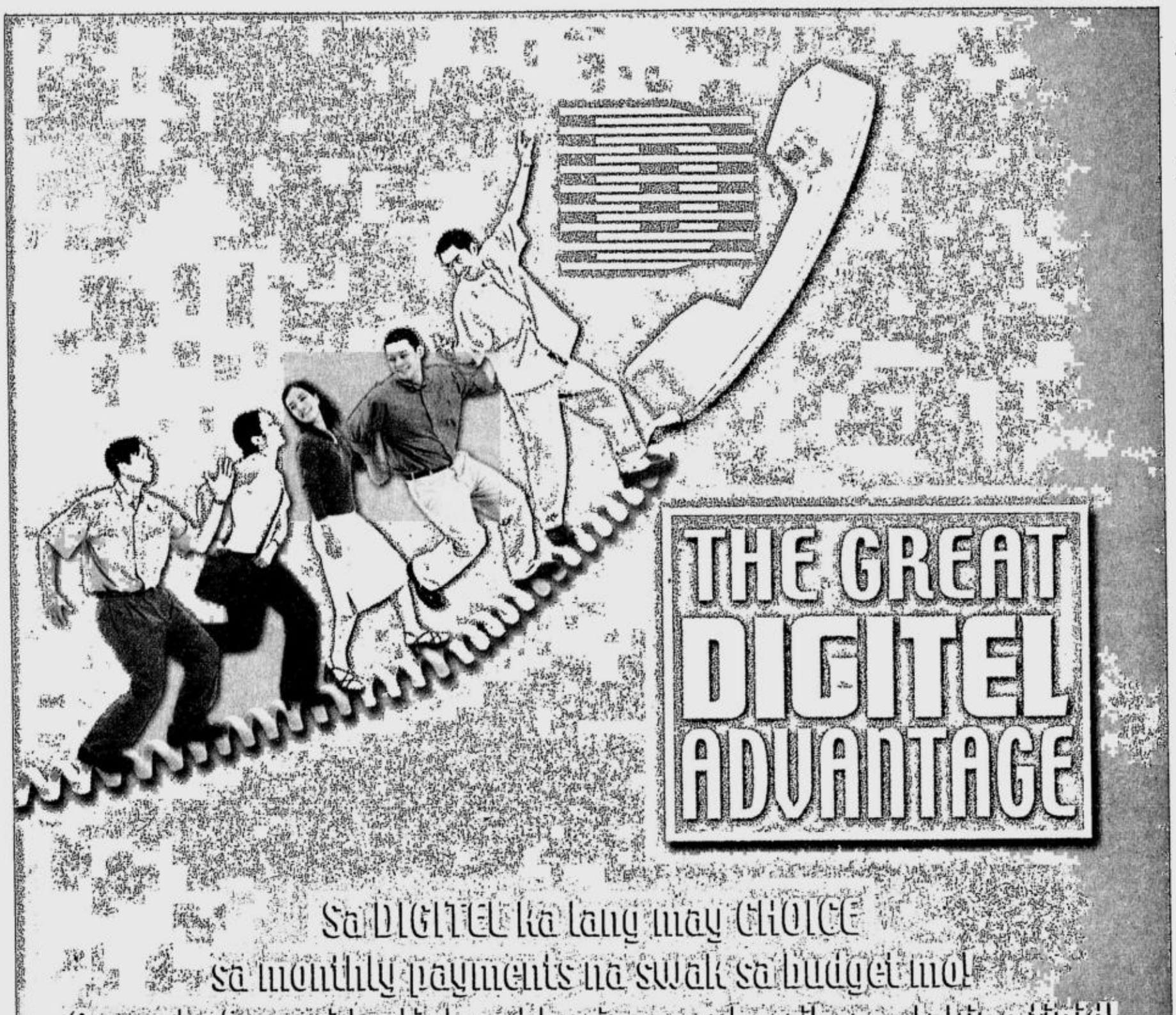
Apostol also said PNOC-EDC was in talks with the provincial government of Romblon for a possible 900-kilowatt mini hydro facility in Sibuyan Island.

"Our discussions aim to undertake this project through a 50-50 joint venture with the local government," he said.

The official said Romblon would manage the project while PNOC-EDC would provide the technical needs of the project.

Apostol said the Development Bank of the Philippines was willing to lend P1 million for the facility.

According to the Department of Energy's Philippine Energy Plan, which covers 2002-2011, the country's hydropower potential could generate as much as 13,426 MW of electricity.



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SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

Austin Powers outgrosses James Bond

WITH only three installments, Austin Powers (left) has made more money than all James Bond movies combined!

THE LATEST installment of the "Austin Powers" movies debuted at the top of the north American box office, and three "Austin Powers" installments have so far outgrossed all the James Bond films that the movies were supposed to spoof.

No match

Even recent James Bond films like "Tomorrow Never Dies" and "The Word is Not Enough" were no match for "Powers" in the numbers game.

After New Line Cinema and MGM, which own the James Bond copyright, said they agreed that comedian Mike Myers could use "Austin Powers in Goldmember" as the title of the upcoming spy movie that spoofs the James Bond films, New Line spared no time and effort in promoting the movie.

The deal settles a yearlong dispute that erupted when a Motion Picture Association of America arbitration panel ruled that New Line and Myers could not use the "Goldmember" name for the third installment of the popular comedy because it was too close to a James Bond film title owned by MGM.

The name is a play on the 1964 Bond movie "Goldfinger," to which MGM owns the rights and which the studio guards closely—Bond is a billion-dollar franchise for the company.

In production

Last year, MGM vice chairman Chris McGurk said the company has a "zero-tolerance policy" toward others who trade on the Bond name. The

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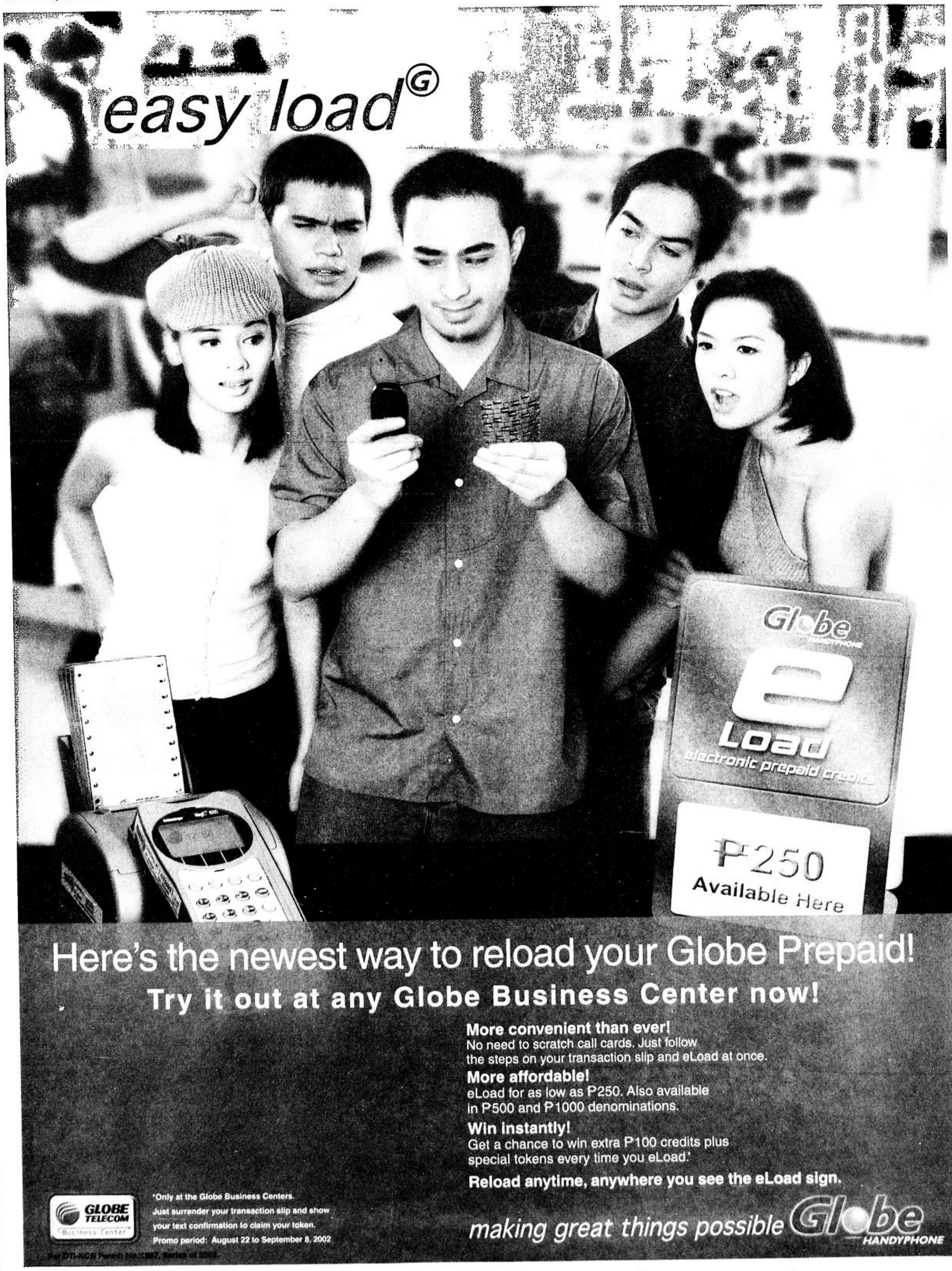

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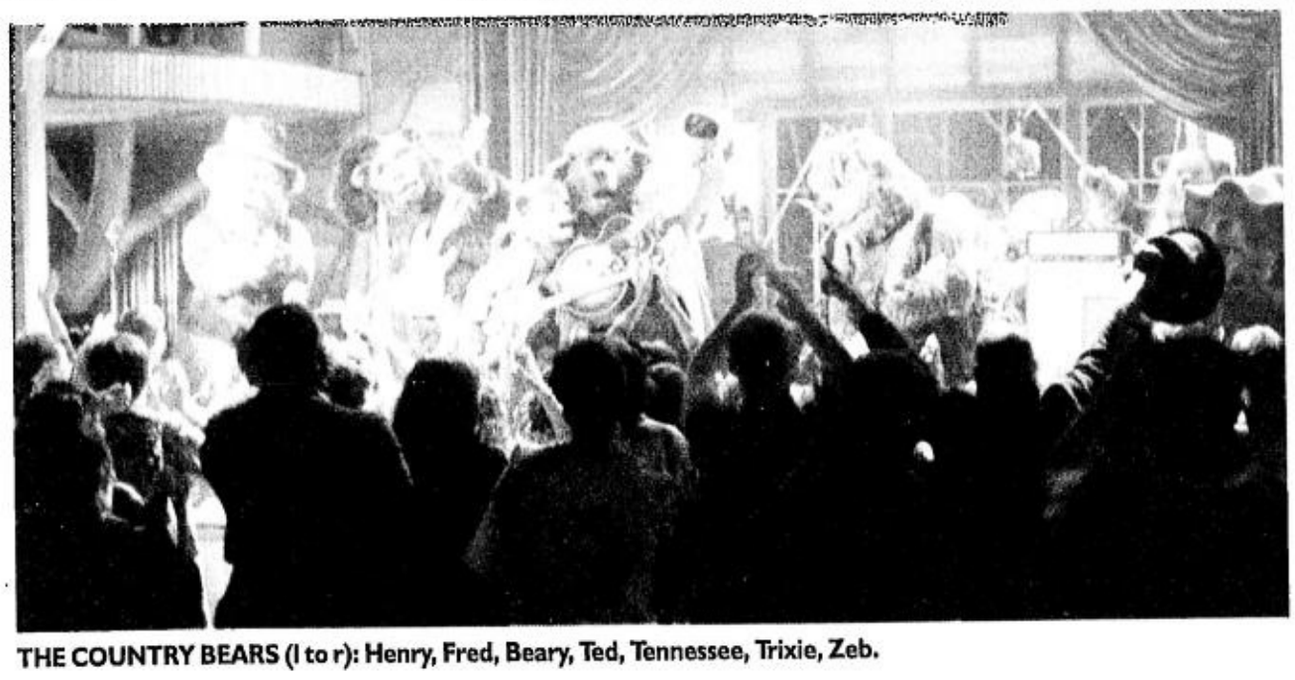


THE COUNTRY BEARS (l to r): Henry, Fred, Beary, Ted, Tennessee, Trixie, Zeb.

'The Country Bears' is a crowd-pleaser

By Sheila Norman-Culp

NEW YORK—Disney has taken the most corn-pone of all theater clichés—"We gotta put on a show!"—and turned it into a foot-stomping, crowd-pleasing, heartwarming romp with the animals in "The Country Bears."

Old franchise

More than 75 million people have seen The Country Bears Jamboree, one of the most popular attractions for decades at Disney parks. Disney has now expanded the old franchise by creating a film that parents can take their littlest ones to and not fight off seat-rot or mind-numbing boredom.

Three aspects of "The Country Bears" make the movie: a catchy soundtrack with at least three show-stopping musical routines, a scattering of comic touches aimed straight at parents, and goofy, slapstick humor that appeals to audiences age two and up.

Christopher Walken is screamingly arch as the villainous banker who wants to tear down Country Bear Hall—no one else can overact with such panache.

Daryl "Chill" Mitchell and Diedrich Bader are two modern-day Keystone Cops, guaranteed never to get their man, even if he is an 11-year-old boy bear. Their car-wash chase scene rates with the classics of comedy, so simple and yet so stupid. You don't really want to laugh, but you must.

Sufficiently earnest

Haley Joel Osment is sufficiently earnest as Beary, the young bear who realizes he must leave his human family to reunite "The Country Bears" rock group and save the hall they made so famous. So much for the plot.

Jennifer S. Paige, as a winsome waitress, and singers Krystal Marie Harris and Brian Setzer engagingly belt out the big songs—seven of them written by John Hiatt—that keep everyone awake in a dark theater.

Older kids (we are talking 7- to 8-year-olds) can identify with Beary's human brother Dex (Eli Marienthal), who is amazed that his parents will not just admit that his younger brother is a bear.

While the bears specialize in slow-motion, pun-filled humor, screenwriter Mark Perez did not forget the adults who drove his audience to the movie.

"They are great. They were always great!" Bonnie Raitt says to Hiatt, as they sit at a bar admiring the bears who are singing with their voices.

"Better than the Eagles," Hiatt adds.

Human parents

The bus sign reads "Hiber Nation Tour," a dissolute rocker bear has a "sticky honey" problem, a former lover "took off with a panda" and Beary innocently asks his human parents "Am I adopted?"

The audience screeches out "Yes!"

Tremendous effort went into making and operating such realistic bear costumes, and costume designer Genevieve Tyrrell added some eye-catching fashions, my favorite being the "wedding singer bear" outfit.

"Beary, beary good!" one father chortled as he herded his crew home.

"The Country Bears" is released by Disney. It runs 88 minutes, Three and a half stars. *AP*

Some TV documentarists do slipshod work

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME TV seasons ago, local documentaries experienced a heartening upsurge, buoyed by viewers' strongly positive reaction to them.

Upward trajectory

Some months ago, however, the original documentarists' ranks were watered down by resignations, burnout, etc. The departing docu producers were replaced by younger talents, and everyone hoped that local documentary shows would continue on their upward trajectory.

Alas, that has not happened. For months now, we have been viewing one local documentary after another, and we must conclude that the overall quality has gone down.

What could be the problem(s)? In our view, the veteran documentarists were more focused, hardworking, gifted, sensitive and committed than some members of the new batch. There are exceptions on both sides, but this overall assessment appears to be valid.

Detail

Some "symptoms": in previous TV seasons, documentaries took longer to produce—and the detail and stick-to-it-iveness showed on the screen.

All too often these days, hour-long documentaries look like they took only two or three days to shoot. They look thin, fail to convincingly support their contentions, and beg the question instead of answering it.

Also evident in the new documentaries is a less focused and more scattershot approach. Their producers get three or five subjects, do thumbnail pieces on them, and infer general conclusions from the piecemeal "evidence." What is lacking is real immersion in the subject or syndrome, despite producers' brave declarations to the contrary.

Too busy

Why are some new documentarists rushing through their work? A giveaway statement was recently made by a producer: He said that he was much too busy to really do good work. Aside from coming up with one full documentary a month, he also had to do smaller stories for the nightly news, etc.

The producer should be credited for being candid, but he *shouldn't* be cited for being overworked. Something's got to give if he wants to do good work, so he should pass on some of his nightly-news duties.

He can't skip those duties? Then, he shouldn't do one documentary per month. You really can't have your cake and eat it, too.

New documentaries are also inferior because they've become too controversy- or show biz-oriented. For this development, we must fault the increased competition between the TV channels, and network executives who order producers to "jazz up" their documentaries.

Bane

But we must also blame the producers themselves, for agreeing to this shallow and exploitative condition, which should be the bane of any self-respecting documentarist.

It should be clear to them that the documentary is *not* entertainment, not a pawn in the ratings game, and should not be compromised as such.

Once, a veteran documentary producer also felt pressured to compromise her work to make her show more popular, so that it could "survive." We chided her in print, she thought it over, and junked her new, "practical" thrust. Happily, the show she does docus for is still on the air.

We urge our new documentarists to similarly take stock of their compromises, and the negative effect they've had on their work. There's still time to get back on track, to make sure that the public's high estimation of documentaries is not completely eroded. What price ratings if documentaries end up documenting, not the topic at hand, but their makers' lack of commitment and resolve?

Leni Riefenstahl celebrates her 100th birthday

By Adam Tanner

(Conclusion)

"THIS had nothing to do with my troubles after the war," Reifenstahl said. "The underwater world is so special for me because it is so mysterious and always good for surprises." Her latest film, a 50-minute work called "Underwater Impressions," was scheduled for release on her 100th birthday on Aug. 22 and will also be released on DVD.

Six years

"The shootings for this documentary film were made over a period of time of six years and I have made more than 2,000 plunges to make them," she said.

"The film is without action. It shows rare living beings under the water. To produce the film was very difficult because of the flows in the ocean." Riefenstahl's last film, "Tiefland," was released in 1954, 14 years after the project started and was interrupted by World War Two.

Although returning to film represents an old dream finally fulfilled, Riefenstahl does not see it as a late breakthrough in her career. "I do not believe that my film represents a turning point," she said.

Until recently, it seemed that nothing could slow Riefenstahl down.

Helicopter crash

In 2000 she survived a dramatic helicopter crash in Sudan in Africa where she was photographing Nuba tribespeople whom she first visited in 1956. One cameraman was severely injured and lost an eye. Riefenstahl suffered broken ribs when the Russian helicopter dropped from a height of 50 feet (15 m).

Yet within months she had recovered well enough to spend two weeks diving in the Maldives in the Indian Ocean.

In late 2000, she published a new retrospective book, "Five Lives," highlighting her careers as dancer, actress—her first role was in 1926—director, photographer and diver.

She is still talking about working beyond her centennial celebration. "Yes. I still have plans and further projects. Especially to utilize my material of the Nuba," she said.

Insiders say however that Riefenstahl has inevitably had to cut back on her past frenetic work pace.

On good days she thinks she can manage a lot," said her assistant Ulrike Thomann-Japes. "But the bad days come and she realizes her age."

Riefenstahl may yet receive a major blast of public recognition in years to come when Hollywood star Jodie Foster releases a film, now at the planning stage, on her controversial life. *Reuters*

Austin Powers outgrosses...

From p. C1

20th Bond movie, "Die Another Day," is currently in production and is set to hit theaters this fall.

But before that debut, Powers, who lives in the late 1960s but has traveled through time and space in his past movies, has already put his own mojo back to work.

The second installment, "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me," grossed nearly $130 million worldwide in 1999 and made more in its opening weekend than the first movie, 1997's "Austin Powers: International Man of Msytery," did in its entire run.

"The Spy Who Shagged Me" was a play on a 1977 Bond movie title "The Spy Who Loved Me." MGM challenged that title, too, but settled that dispute when New Line agreed to play the trailer for upcoming MGM movies ahead of the Austin Powers sequel.

Details of the settlement in the case of "Goldmember" were not disclosed, and representatives for both studios declined to comment beyond a brief, two-paragraph statement.

News that a settlement was in the works first appeared in show business newspapers a few weeks before the third installment's opening, with Daily Variety reporting that "Die Another Day" and other MGM movies will have their trailers shown in theaters ahead of "Goldmember."

The MGM challenge proved costly for New Line. Back in January, New Line was forced to recall about 11,000 trailers that used the Goldmember name, and the studio has been calling the movie simply "Austin Powers 3" since then. *AP*

Not much to laugh about in local TV comedy shows

By Noelani Torre

WILLIE NEPOMUCENO AS JOSEPH ESTRADA. Impersonations click with viewers.

WE Filipinos have always been known for our sense of humor, our ability to laugh at the dire straits we usually find ourselves in. We have a long history of using laughter as a preventive for the depression that we should be feeling, what with the gloomy reality of life in this country.

Loyal following

That's why comedy shows abound on local TV. Along with the soaps and the drama shows, they dominate primetime viewing and they have a loyal following of their own.

But, are they effective? Do they really make us laugh? How can they be improved? Some viewers' inputs:

Politician-stars

"Ang pinaka-ayaw ko sa mga comedy shows *ay ang mga* politician/stars *gaya nina* Joey Marquez, Bong Revilla, *at* Isko Moreno. *Dapat ialay na lang nila ang* time *nila sa pag-*serve *sa* public.

*"Ayoko ding makitang nagko-*comedy *si* Aga, *kasi hindi siya bagay sa gano'n. Pati na ang mga* bold stars. *'Wag na nilang pilitin pa, kasi hindi talaga sila nakakatawa. Ibang-iba ang dating ng mga* shows *natin dito keysa sa mga* comedy shows *sa* States, *gaya ng* 'Dharma and Greg' *tsaka 'Third Rock from the Sun.' Yung mga yun, pinag-iisipan talaga.*

"Ayoko din sa mga extras *sa* comedy shows, *yung mga unano, mga pangit. Parang dinampot lang sila sa kanto, tapos kinakawawa pa lagi. Hindi na nakakatawa. I-*improve *naman sana nila ang mga* themes *nila, kasi paulit-ulit na lang. Wala nang kuwenta.*

"Ang gusto ko lang ay yung 'Bubble Gang' kasi maganda ang production *nila at* every week *may bago silang* theme. *Gusto ko rin dati ang mga* impersonations *sa 'Ispup' pero nakakasawa na ngayon, kasi paulit-ulit na rin."—Yani Lasam, Cagayan*

Effective

"I don't like then when they're corny and trying-hard *magpatawa*. For example, 'Idol Ko si Kap,' the show that tries too hard to please everybody. Unlike 'Kool Ka Lang' which is effective because they don't use the Joey de Leon style of comedy and foul language.

"What I don't like when it comes to gag shows is that they have to hurt other cast members *para lang magpatawa*. You find yourself laughing at first, but later on you realize that there's something wrong with it.

"Like 'Wow Mali!'— *wala silang gag na hindi nakaka-*offend *at nakakagalit ng mga tao*. There was this episode where their victim got really angry."—*Diana de la Cruz, Aklan*

Spoofs

"I like it when they spoof commercials and prominent people because *talagang makikita mong pinag-iisipan. Mas mahirap gumawa ng* effective *na* spoof *keysa sa gumawa ng mga* corny *na* jokes. I don't like the shows *na masyadong* trying-hard *magpatawa*.

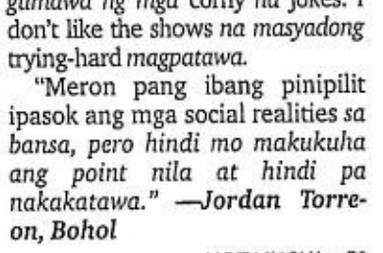
"Meron pang ibang pinipilit ipasok ang mga social realities *sa bansa, pero hindi mo makukuha ang point nila at hindi pa nakakatawa." —Jordan Torreon, Bohol*

NOT MUCH/ p. C8

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Joey Albert sings her heart out

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo



ALBERT. Celebrating her 22nd year in show biz.

JOEY Albert packed the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Hotel last Aug. 15. She sang 15 songs including three encore numbers. Joey was overwhelmed by the audience's reception.

With Gerald Salonga calling the musical shots, Joey opened with "Twilight World" and "Manic Monday" and set the mood with her collection of songs which were close to her heart.

She's celebrating her 22nd year in the music industry, so she tried to do one song per year. Her most applauded numbers were her hits, "Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin," "A Million Miles," and "It's Over Now." Melancholy mixed with joy and happiness. Her voice sounded like a lullaby, gentle and sweet but very moving. She should come home more often to do concerts.

The momentum was broken when Joey did a Sergio Mendes medley. The reaction of the crowd was lukewarm because the songs were unfamiliar.

Her rendition of "Only Hope" and "One Day I'll Fly Away" sent shivers down our spines. The show ended past midnight but the audience loved every minute of it. When Joey did her encore numbers, "Tell Me," "I'm Every Woman," and "Best of My Love," the crowd seem to get a new lease on life. They started clapping and dancing to the beat.

Food and Art Gallery opens

Food and Art Gallery has opened its doors on the 12th floor of the GT International Tower on De la Costa st. corner Ayala ave. in Makati City. The Gallery has a unique concept that elevates fast-food dining into a pleasureable and exciting experience.

Some of the outlets are City Bites, Bali Blue (Indonesian), Paotsin (Chinese), Stefanos (Italian), Lola's Kitchen (Filipino), Subway and New York Café.

Paintings on display are on sale. Ayala Museum runs the gallery. This makes the Food and Art Gallery an alternative venue for budding and established artists.

'Insiang' is riveting

Tanghalang Pilipino's stage version of "Insiang" is simply marvelous.

O'Hara's contemporary script is both crisp and cold-bloodedly real. He intelligently uses a narrating character (Toyang) who is not only warm and waggish but also wily (Toyang is brilliantly portrayed by Mae Paner).

Also outstanding was newcomer Sheenly Gener as Insiang.

Of course, the thespians in Malu de Guzman (as Pacing) and Ricky Davao (as Dado) were evident as they showed human frailty in its most interesting and unguarded schemes.

There'll be two more shows this weekend, both at 3 p.m., so catch the pay if you can.

Vina Morales is Ms Adrenaline

If Gary Valenciano is Mr. Pure Energy, then Vina Morales is Ms Adrenaline! Last Monday, we caught Morales at the Hardrock. Whew! This girl can whip up a storm!

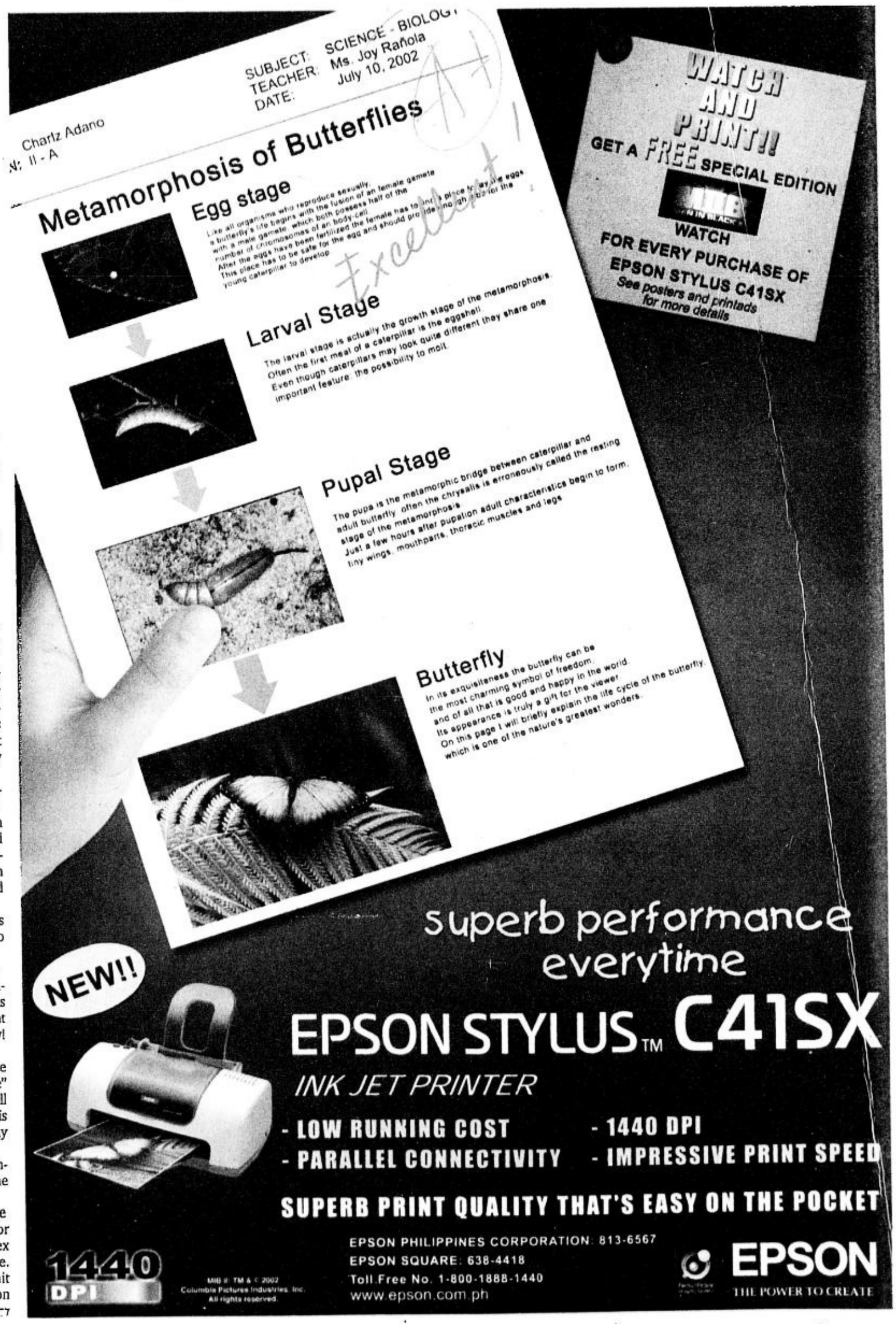
Even when she sang mushy love tunes like "Fallin'," "My Only Hope" and "Pangako sa 'Yo," Vina was all heart. The fit and fabulous singer is more spontaneous now in the way she connects with her audience.

Catch Vina tonight at Conway's at Shangri-la Makati for the last leg of her bar tour.

Sex Bomb Girls take centerstage

After serving as backdrop for the hosts of "Eat Bulaga," the Sex Bomb Girls now take centerstage. Their debut single 'Bakit Papa' hit the top of the pop charts as soon

JOEY/ p. C7



Three movie talents who don't mind being called *'jologs'*

By Edmund L. Sicam

THE TERM *"jologs"* has always had a negative connotation, often referring to someone who's *"baduy"* or superficial. Gilbert Perez, who directs the Star Cinema movie with the same title, wants to give a positive spin to the word, saying it refers to "someone who's true to himself." So Perez doesn't mind being called *"jologs"* as well as two of the stars we interviewed for the movie, John Pratts and Assunta De Rossi.

Emotions and attitudes

Jumping off from this definition, Perez says his movie focuses on "the emotions, attitudes and lifestyle of the young." In addition, it deals with the idea that whatever one does affects the life of another, and whatever that person does also impacts on the next person, and so on down the line.

"Jologs" is unique in that it combines seven stories and 11 characters whose lives get intertwined in the course of the movie. The movie is based on a script written by Ned Trespeces, which won in the Star Cinema scriptwriting contest several years ago.

Some Hollywood films have tried this approach but we have yet to see something similar in a local production. There have been movies where they featured three or more stories, but these were separate episodes in one movie, like Assunta's "Red Diaries." In "Jologs," there is only one storyline involving different characters.

Perez admits that this is a risky move because moviegoers might not be able to follow the story, but he feels we should not underestimate the intelligence of the local audience. Besides, the whole idea is to present something new, something that viewers don't see on TV everyday.

"Jologs" is not an action movie but John Pratts found himself jumping from a building's second floor, into a swimming pool. John had seen shots of his double doing the stunt but, even from afar, he didn't look like the young actor. So John bravely volunteered to do something he had never done before. Understandably, John was scared to do the scene without a double but as the saying goes, "the show must go on."

Thief

In the movie, John plays a thief who is trapped in a room and the only way he can escape is to go through the window

THREE/ p. C7

PEREZ. Positive spin.

DE ROSSI. Believes in karma.

PRATTS. Painful injury.

In praise of the 'lowly' *malunggay*

SOMETIMES, people think that solutions to their problems are expensive and hard to find. But more often than not, real solutions to basic problems are abundant, cheap and even free. Health problems are especially solvable with natural inexpensive gifts from nature.

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

Blessing

Moringa, for example, is a wonderful blessing for us all. Locally, it is called *malunggay* and is easily available everywhere. Unfortunately, it is little appreciated by many Filipinos. Today, I would like to share with you the good news about Moringa, as written by Mark Fritz of the Los Angeles Times:

"Scientifically speaking, Moringa sounds like magic. It can rebuild weak bones, enrich anemic blood and enable a malnourished mother to nurse her starving baby. Ounce for ounce, it has the calcium of four glasses of milk, the vitamin C of seven oranges and the potassium of three bananas.

"A dash of Moringa can make dirty water drinkable. Doctors use it to treat diabetes in West Africa and high blood pressure in India. Not only can it staunch a skin infection, but Moringa also makes an excellent fuel and fertilizer.

"Memo to Popeye: Moringa has triple the iron of spinach and more impressive attributes than olive oil. Both Moringa and the common carrot are diamonds in the rough-age department, but Moringa has quadruple the beta carotene, which is good for the eyes and effective against cancer."

Positive results

Fritz also reports on the positive results of using Moringa as a substitute for expensive whole milk powder in nutrition projects:

"In a 65-page book on the National Council of Church's pilot project in Senegal, Fuglie described the willingness of a hospital administrator to substitute Moringa for the classical, and costly, methods of using whole milk powder, vegetable oil and sugar to treat malnutrition. The official, a diabetic, had been drinking Moringa tea to control his glucose for years, but had been unaware of its nutritional properties.

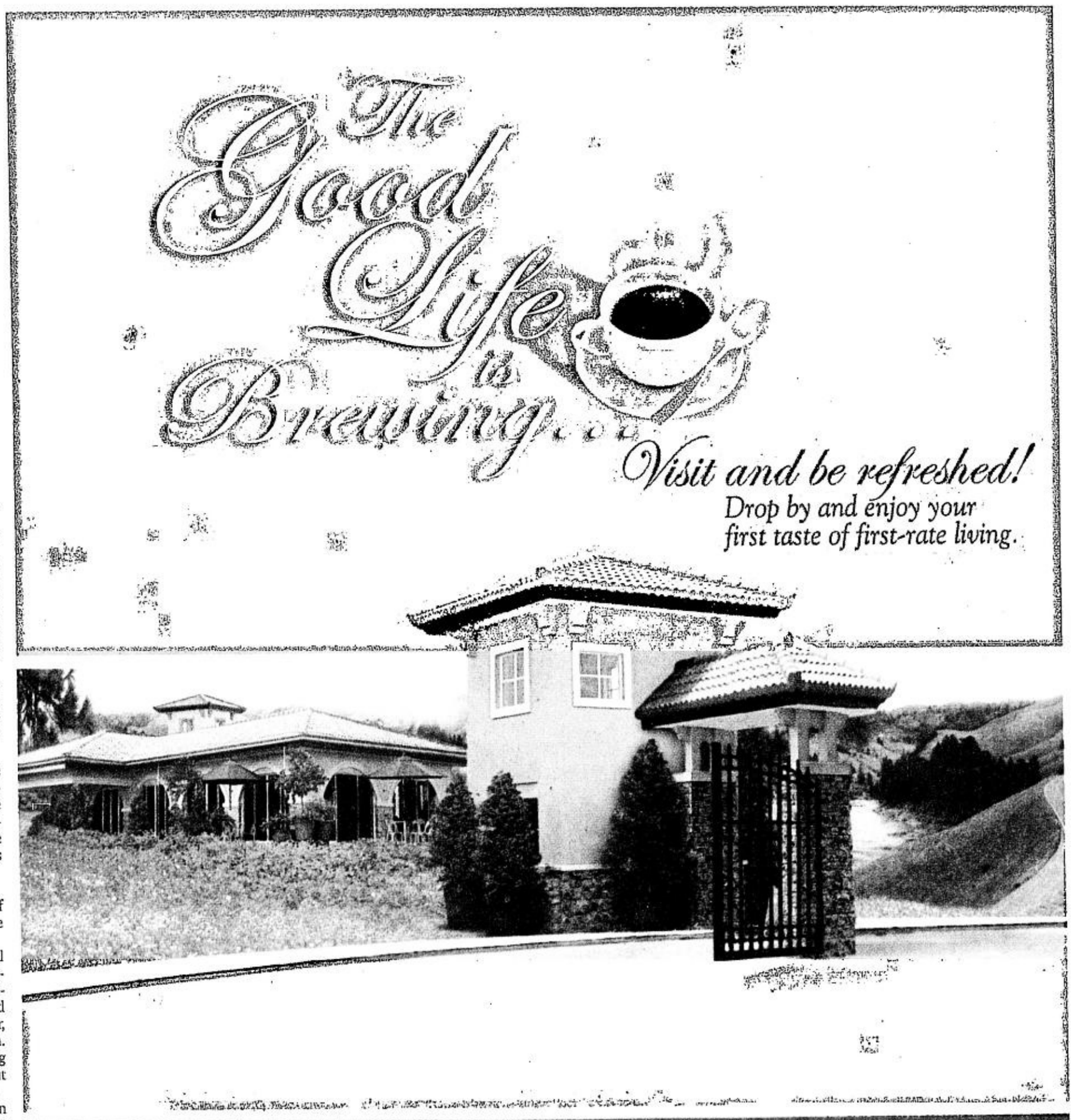
"A star of the project was Awa Diedhou, an infant born weighing three pounds, five ounces. Her mother couldn't produce sufficient milk and the child was given little chance to survive. On a Moringa-supplemented diet, the child quickly grew 'quite fat,' Fuglie said, and the mother began producing milk.

"Beriberi, rickets and scurvy are among the diseases caused by the lack of nutrients that are abundant in Moringa. Three spoonfuls of Moringa leaf powder contain 272 percent of a typical toddler's daily vitamin A requirement, along with 42 percent of the protein, 125 percent of the calcium, 71 percent of the iron and 22 percent of the vitamin C. It contains a full complement of minerals and all the amino acids of meat."

Natural benefit

As if such wonderful blessings were not enough, take note of this added natural benefit: "Some people find its water-purifying powers most compelling. Lack of drinkable water is, arguably, the world's biggest health threat. Pressed Moringa seeds can turn a tumbler of bacteria-laced river muck into clean water more economically than imported chemicals, researchers say."

And when it comes to natural healing powers, there's more to know about Moringa: "The seeds and roots contain an antibiotic that Guatemala's University of San Carlos found to be as effective against skin infections as neomycin. In recent years, studies published in the journal Phytotherapy Research and HortScience have found different Moringa parts to be effective in lowering blood sugar, reducing swelling, healing gastric ulcers, lowering blood pressure and even calming the nervous system."



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So if you can't wait to find out what's brewing at Portofino, drop by our Sales Office for a chat and a cup of coffee. We'll be glad to show you around!

Site Appreciation Day this Sunday, 9am - 5pm.

Japanese udon with Filipino fillings at Pinoy Don

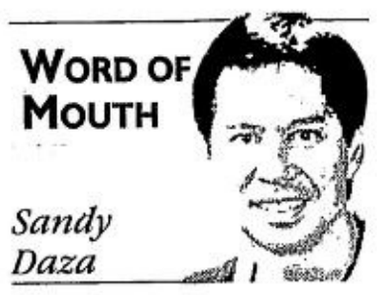
THE RESTAURANT boom has hit the metropolis. Many established places are expanding, and many greenhorns are getting into this booming business. One of our traits is that when an enterprise clicks, many follow, until everyone realizes it is just a fad and slowly pull away with depleted pockets. Remember the *lechon manok* craze? The *shawarma, Sago* and the hamburger? The burger craze is still around and I sincerely hope it stays.

New concept

Most of the places that have opened are duplicates of others that have been successful. Seldom do we find new ones with a fresh concept. What I noticed though is we have a lot of restaurants with catchy or very creative names. But the attractive names sometimes do not match the quality of the food. There are exceptions, though.

On one of my strolls along the 5th level of The Podium at Ortigas Center, I passed a place called **Pinoy Don**. Intrigued by its totally original concept, I planned a visit.

AGEMONO PLATTER. Pinoydon Fried Chicken, Kani Lumpia and Bangus Belly Katsu.



Creators

The owners have a Japanese fastfood outlet at Dish at the Power Plant in Rockwell. They are the creators of the famous Kobe beef fried rice (a dish worth braving the traffic for). Dindin is the creator of many of these never-seen dishes.

The inspiration for Pinoy Don hit her when she tried to go to sleep one night and the idea of the Japanese udon came to mind, but using Pinoy fillings. Today, this idea is a reality. But the success story does not end there. The food has to match the brilliance of the concept.

I started with the Pinoy sushis. I particularly enjoyed the *Tortang Talong* Maki and the *Tinapa* Maki as appetizers. Other delicious dishes were the *Bangus* belly *Katsu*, the *Kani Ensalada, Bistekdon* and the chicken *adobo* don.

These are your usual Pinoy favorites, but somehow, blended with the mildly sweet teriyaki sauce on the piping hot Japanese rice, the dishes are more tasty.

Discovery

Surprisingly, one discovery is the Pinoy Don Fried Chicken—boneless chicken strips seasoned with Pinoy spices, and fried Japanese style. Simple and delicious!

For dessert, I truly enjoyed the Banana Surprise, hot fried *maruya* and ice cream, topped with chocolate sauce.

I was impressed with Dindin's creativity and her boldness in coming up with something new and tasty. With very reasonable prices to match, I feel her menu will be a success which many will try to duplicate.

A new Pinoy Don will open at Robinsons Place in Manila. Tel. no. 631-1198

Happy Eating!

SUSHI PLATTER. Aligue Maki, Tortang Talong Maki, and Tinapa Maki.

CHICKEN Adobo don.

Filipino filmmakers abroad make their mark

By Nestor U. Torre

HOW do we keep track of Filipino filmmakers abroad? One way is to survey their participation in film festivals that focus on movies made by Asians. One such filmfest is the Asian American International Film Festival, the 2002 edition of which was held only last month in New York City.

Brief bios

There was an impressively dominant participation by Filipinos in the filmfest, which marks its 25th anniversary this year, as demonstrated by the number of feature-length and short films they showed, and their brief bios in CineVue, a publication co-edited by Angel Velasco Shaw and festival co-founder Daryl Chin:

Francisco Aliwalas. His short films have aired on Nickelodeon and London's Children's Channel. He's won first place in fiction at AFI/ Sony Visions. He wrote, directed and starred in "Disoriented," an independent feature presented in over a dozen festivals. The comedy-drama is about an eccentric yet lovable Asian American family.

Mark Arbitario. A founder of the San Diego Asian Film Festival, he has written several screenplays including "Genie's Rule," a screwball comedy for veteran Asian American actor James Hong.

Mark is currently an artist in residence at Visual Communications, a Los Angeles-based Asian media arts organization, and working in post production on the CBS reality show, "Survivor."

Comedy star

Mark Bella. He started making documentary films in San Diego. After moving to Los Angeles, he put up his own post-production studio and helped create Paradise Digital Productions.

He recently completed a feature-length documentary on comedy star Pauly Shore, focusing on Shore's most recent endeavor, directing his first independent, semi-autobiographical feature, "You'll Never Weiz in This Town Again."

Q. Allan Brocka. His stop-motion animated short, "Rick & Steve, The Happiest Gay Couple in All The World," won him notoriety. With the support of Universal Pictures' internet media website, Hypnotic, he finished the next three installments of the "Rick & Steve" series, which is set to air on C1TV (USA), BBC (UK), and Pridevision (Canada).

Screenplay

He is also writing the feature screenplay "Lovesick," and is in pre-production f'or his first feature film, "Beauty and the Brains."

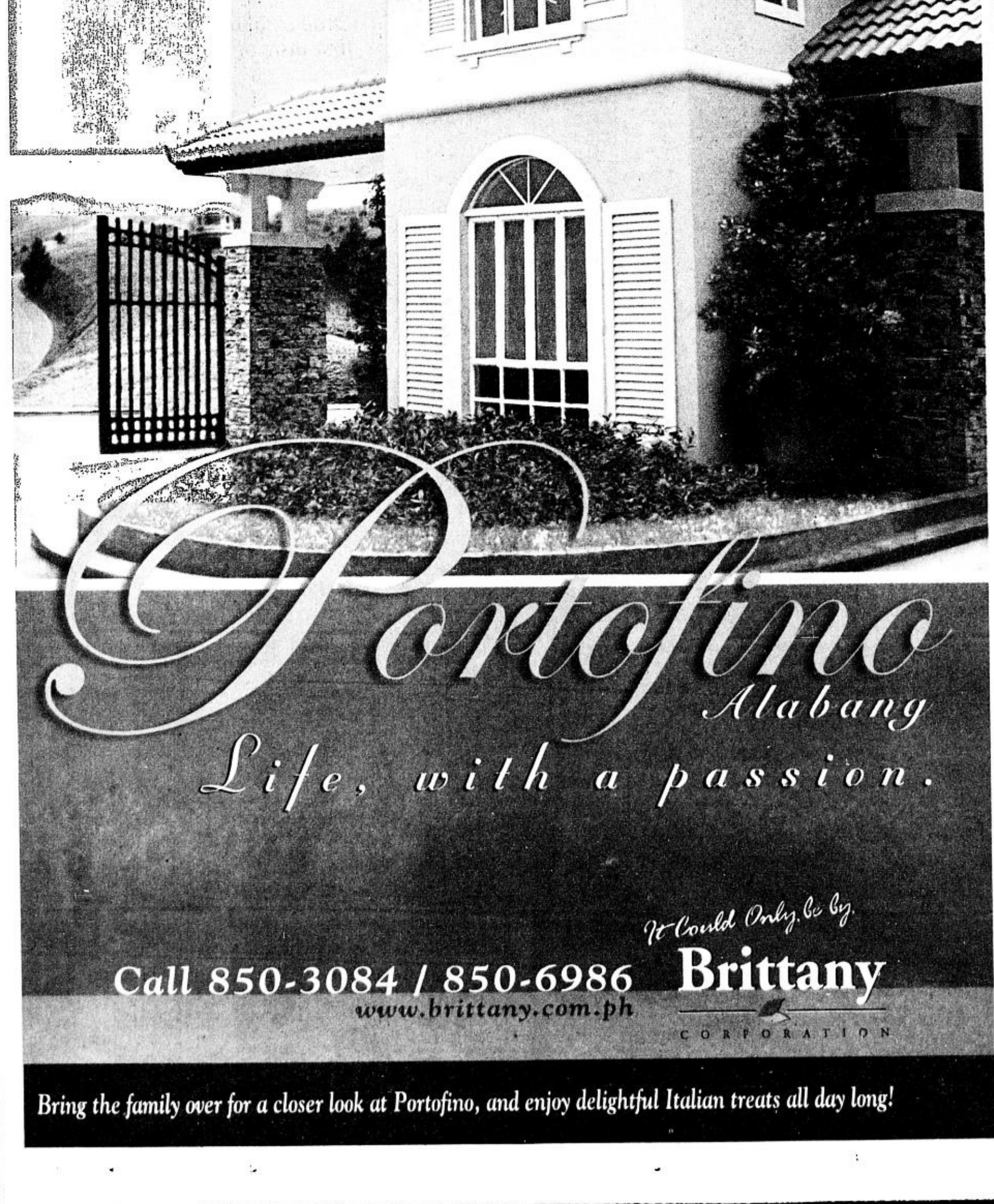
Christopher Ad Castillo. Son of Celso Ad, he started out as an actor. He is the founder of Cinemafest, an annual Los Angeles-based film festival dedicated to Filipino filmmakers, and the 63 Collective, a group of US-based Filipinos working in the movies.

He is in pre-production on two features, "A World Without End," a psychosexual thriller starring Giselle Toengi, and "Where the Willows Grow," a murder mystery.

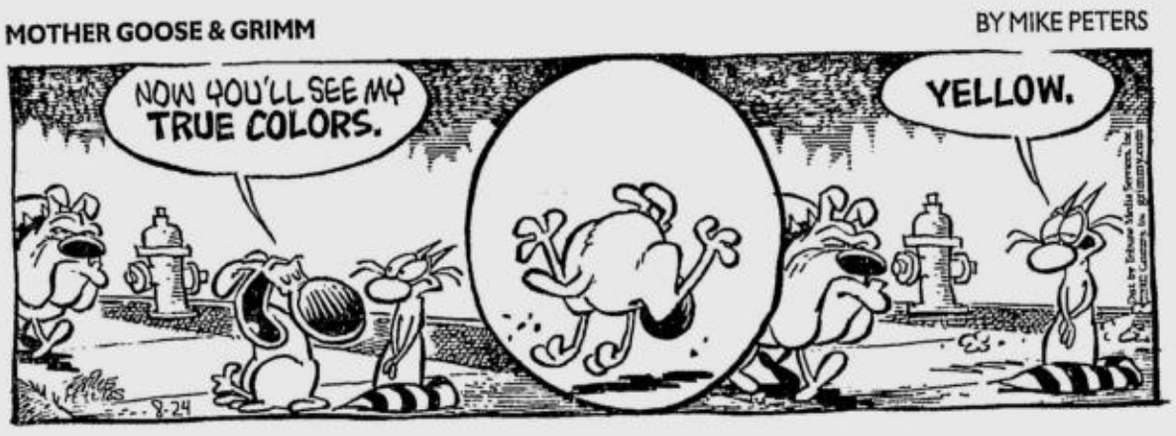
Fruto Corre. Writer, scholar and producer-director of over 25 films and videos, some of which have been screened in festivals in the US. "The Criminal" (1983) won first prize in the ECP Short Film Competition, and "A Day on a Sidewalk of Katipunan Road" (1984) won as Best Student Film in the same tilt.

Sari Dalena. Currently pursuing her Master's degree in Film at New York University on a Fullbright-Hayes scholarship.

She received the Grand Jury Prize for Best Experimental Film at the Eksperimento 2001 filmfest, and recently won the grand prize from the World Studio Foundation, and the Asian Cultural Council Fellowship for 2002-2003.



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

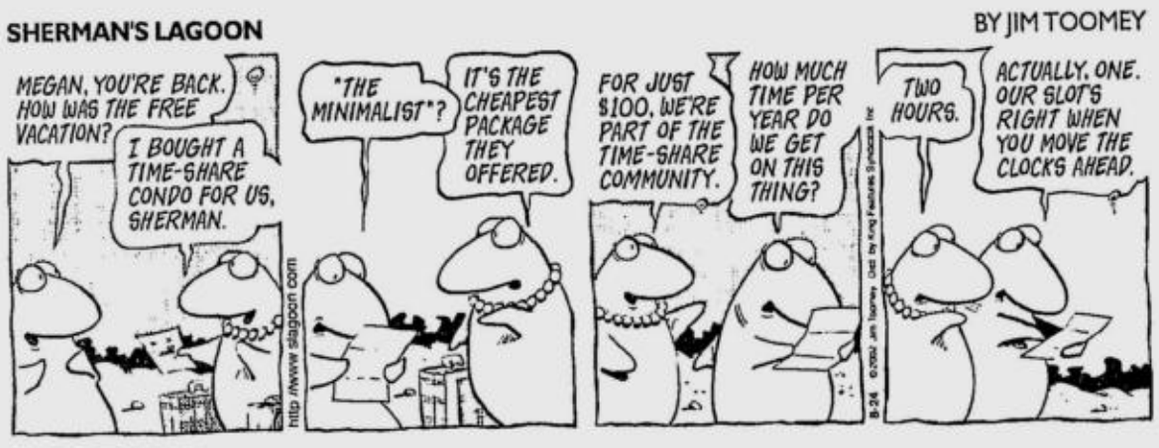


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

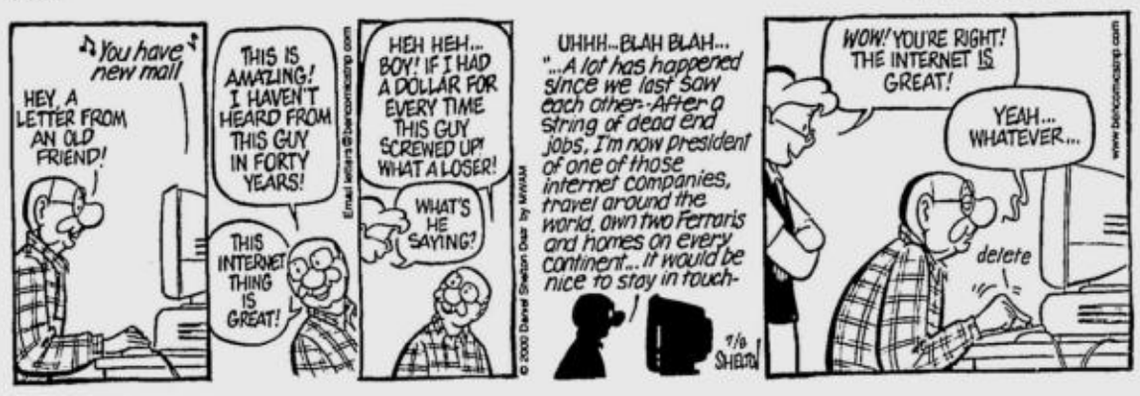


SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Paul Geary, Ruth Buzzi, Lynda Carter, Amelia Earhart

Happy Birthday: You'll be quite the genius this year. You have what it takes to make things happen. Your energy level will be high and your creative ability in full swing. This is the year to try your hand at something new. It's a year of progress. Your numbers are 6, 19, 23, 27, 39, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't back down from anyone, regardless of who he is. You should fight for your rights. You are likely to get involved in secret intrigues that could lead to an interesting but uncertain situation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you are feeling a little bored with what you are currently doing, look for a more unconventional job or hobby. Use your creative talents today to come up with something that satisfies you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will easily win the hearts of those you encounter. You will actively pursue pleasure, and should be able to strike up a new relationship or form a closer bond with the person you are already involved with.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have an eye for investments today. You will spend your hard-earned cash on items that will enhance your home. You will do well in industries that deal with hospitals, domestic services and food.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You must give your partner a chance to explain what he or she has been doing. Learn to bend and compromise and all will be OK.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have a great interest in expanding your mind through the communication you're involved in. If you join an organization that has the same beliefs you have, you are likely to form lasting friendships.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will see yourself clearly today and, as a result, you'll make improvements that will enhance your attitude and your appearance. Your ability to help others will bring you admiration and popularity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will experience drastic changes in one of your friendships today. Anger and resentment will lead to terminating this connection. Travel will pay off and give you information that will help you close a deal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your intuition will be good today and your ability to understand the needs of friends and relatives uncanny. Don't, however, try to deal with issues that are not your territory.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will find ways to earn money and take care of yourself by using your powerful imagination and following through with your plans. Conversation will be your forte.

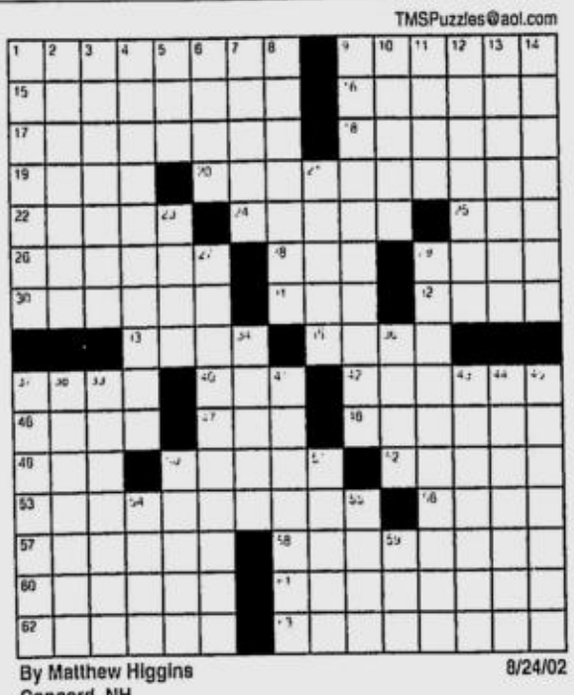
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be bound and determined to do as you please today. You will be sensitive and unwilling to take advice from others. Your increased energy should be put to good use. Physical activity will help you release tension.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will enjoy spending time with family today, but you will also need quiet time to sort out your thoughts. Past romantic flames may try to make a comeback.

Birthday Baby: No one will be able to take his eyes off of you for many reasons. It will be hard to know what you're going to do next, and you'll be so engaging that you will certainly attract attention. You are clever, energetic and curious

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 Quasi convertibles
9 Fire from a low-flying aircraft
15 Extravagantly theatrical
16 Cowardly
17 Russian comrade
18 Not long past
19 Country singer Whitman
20 Adequacy
22 South Korean port
24 Becomes weary
25 Rummy call
26 Merged
28 Put on
29 Occupancy fee
30 Withdraw from service
31 Blast letters
32 Advantage
33 Move about rapidly
35 Moray and conger
37 Vex
40 Indistinct
42 Infection of the blood
46 "The Chalk Garden" playwright Bagnold
47 Cornda cheer
48 African fly
49 Carpentry tool
50 British baby buggies
52 Vamoose
53 Insubstantial
56 Pinball goof
57 Dark purplish red
58 Hostile
60 Set in from the margin
61 Chew the cud
62 Small samples
63 National Anthem word

DOWN
1 Daredevil
2 Moon orbiter's farthest point
3 Stop in again
4 Adapted for the stage
5 Dark, oily, viscous material
6 Of the ear
7 Embroidery loop
8 Mike or Helmut
9 Hollywood audition
10 Waste allowances
11 Strong current
12 Exacted satisfaction
13 Enclosure material
14 __ cordiale
21 Recumbent
23 Rex Stout's Wolfe
27 Smell-masking agents
29 Concerning
34 Italian city
36 Not as much
37 Grant entrance again
38 The Crossroads of America
39 Leapin' __
41 Golden novel, "__ of a Geisha"
43 Impassive
44 Set apart
45 Established residence
50 Call up
51 Dawn
54 Baudelaire or Ginsberg
55 Earth's crust layer
59 Part of a deg

By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
8/24/02

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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D	O	O	D	A	D	S		E	N	D	E	A	R	S

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8/24/02

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Not quite as easy as it looks

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN Matt Damon and Ben Affleck convinced Miramax to cough up $1 M to finance the production of the winning script in their Project Greenlight competition, they thought that the winner would be on easy street.

Series

Film buffs who are following the Project Greenlight series on Cinemax (Thursdays at noon and midnight; Sundays at 2 p.m.; Mondays at 8:30 p.m.) now realize that this was far from what actually transpired.

The Cinemax series chronicles what happened to the project from the time that the scriptwriting contest was launched, through the long elimination process (10,000-plus entries had been submitted!), the choice of finalists, the selection of the winner ("Stolen Summer" by Pete Jones), a total unknown, script changes, casting, dealing with budget constraints, etc.

We've written about the series' first three installments. In episodes four and five, first-time filmmaker Jones, who was tapped to direct his own script, was made to realize that, while the director *is* the "captain of the ship," filmmaking is a collaborative process.

Collaboration

His first act of collaboration had him contending with the restrictions imposed by the Miramax producers assigned to the project. Jones' experience may be an eye-opener for other prospective filmmakers as well, so read on:

To make sure that the project stayed within budget, the producers suggested to Jones that the script's '70s time frame be scrapped, and that the movie not be shot out of town, in Chicago.

Jones was alarmed to hear those cost-cutting recommendations, because he thought those two elements were essential to his script's tenor and substance.

Little by little, however, the producers chipped away at his resolve, until it looked like he was going to give in. Luckily, Damon and Affleck dropped by to see how the project was coming along, and they were apprised of the budgetary restrictions.

Production boss

They then proceeded to jump over the heads of the project producers, contacted the studio's production boss, and got him to agree to increasing the movie's budget, so that the crucial '70s and Chicago factors could be retained.

Jones was ecstatic, but the project producers were furious, because Damon and Affleck had leapfrogged over the chain of command. This goes to show that, even in Hollywood, clout is key. Players less major than Damon and Affleck could not have been so audacious—and gotten away with it.

Casting problems

The next crisis involved casting problems. While the movie's budget was relatively small, the film still needed stellar names to boost its chances at the box office.

Many stars were contacted to play the principal characters in the movie, but they all declined, for one reason or another. Or else, they expressed interest, but came up with many conditions and requirements that adversely affected other aspects of the production.

Caught in the middle of this teapot tempest, Jones felt so disoriented and out of his league that he was losing his hold on his film. Was his movie worth all this stress and power play? He was having second thoughts about the entire project.

Filmmaking process

But, even here, his personal feelings were not all that relevant to the filmmaking process. With or without his full cooperation, the movie mill had already started to grind, and he was required to direct the film, like it or lump it.

Succeeding episodes deal with the shooting phase of the film itself. Will Pete Jones live through the experience? *Abangan!*

AFFLECK AND DAMON. To the writer-director's rescue, just in the nick of time.

Three movie talents . . .

From p. C4

and jump. The young actor had to do five takes, and each jump was quite an experience! Fortunately, he did not suffer any injury. The stunt coordinator taught him how to cushion his fall into the 10-foot-deep pool.

However, John did get hurt in a martial arts sequence with costar Julia Clarete, who plays a blackbelter in the movie. As rehearsed, the scene called for him to hit his face on a glass pane. He miscalculated and suffered a cut on his lip when he hit the glass. It was not serious enough for him to be rushed to the emergency room, but it was painful.

Meanwhile, another "Jologs" star, Assunta De Rossi, is hurting too, but not because of a physical injury. She continues to get flak from her mom and sister Alessandra for getting involved with Rep. Jules Ledesma. However, the sexy actress will not be provoked into saying bad things against her family. When it comes to them, she says, she would rather keep quiet.

Assunta is a firm believer in karma so she doesn't want to say or do anything that will haunt her in the future. She would rather think positive and hope that her detractors will change their minds about her husband-to-be.

Unconditional love

Her face lights up when she talks about the congressman, who is more than twice her age.

What is it that endears Jules to her? She talks about his unconditional love. Her beau will not interfere with her career and doesn't mind if Assunta continues to do the type of films she's known for. She also admires his core values and his always being there for her.

In her latest movie, Assunta is only one of 11 main stars (aside from Assunta, Julia and John, the movie also features Diether Ocampo, Patrick Garcia, Vhong Navarro, Onemig Bondoc, Dominic Ochoa, Jodi Sta. Maria, Baron Geisler and Michelle Bayle). But she doesn't mind not hugging the spotlight in this movie. She has only about 10 minutes of screen time, but she plays a pivotal role that ties up all the stories.

Joey Albert sings her heart out

From p. C3

as their CD was released.

In their 10-track CD, these bombshells proved that they need not be belters to produce a hit, because all they had to do was have lots of fun, and to mix singing with a little moan here and a little groan there.

Regal Films has once again beaten everyone in signing the girls up for their debut movie, which will have Allan K as one of their co-stars.

Their other shows are on the 25th at Robinsons Novaliches, and on the 30th at Robinsons Galleria.

Text in the City

puwedeng-puwede! Sa 200 stalls ng **Greenhills Cellphones & Gadgets Fair.**

Mahilig ka ba sa text? From August 16 to September 8, Greenhills Shopping Center will open 200 stalls for all cellphone lovers! So go ahead, fulfill your text fantasies dahil ngayon, within reach mo na lahat ng klase ng cellphones. Pati gadgets gaya ng PDAs at computers, meron! Dali, forward this message to your textmates and start bargain-hunting from 10am to 8pm, and up to 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

Greenhills Shopping Center, ang paraiso ng mga mahihilig sa text.

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER

Channel [V] shows cater to diverse musical interests

By Nestor U. Torre

CHANNEL [V] International, Asia's international music channel, comes on strong with these shows that cater to viewers' diverse needs and interests:

Wake-up call

The channel's morning wake-up call, "Jump Start," is hosted by VJ Asha, who dispenses new music, fashion and exercise tips, and newbits.

"Channel [V] News" covers Hollywood releases, entertainment news and artist profiles, culminating in a magazine version on Sundays.

"The Billboard US Countdown" is compiled from a US sample of Top 40s radio airplay monitored by broadcast data systems, plus retail and track single sales compiled by SoundScan. VJs Joey and Asha present this definitive two-hour guide to what's happening on the US music scene.

Past guests

"Speakeasy" features a half-hour interview with a well-known or up-and-coming music artist. Past guests include Madonna, Bon Jovi, Phil Collins, Natalie Imbruglia and U2.

"Launchpad" serves as debut ground for the very latest new releases from around the world, keeping viewers abreast of what's going on in the field of music.

"The White Room" showcases live performances by top international stars. The show's title suggests a fresh canvas or a new page, indicating that each featured performance is open to reinterpretation.

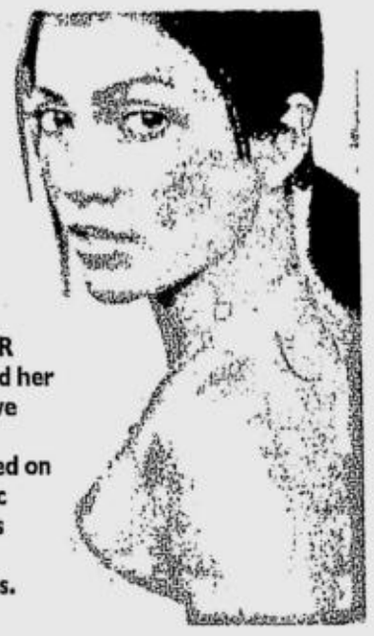
Best music videos

"By Demand" is 60 minutes of the best music videos, as requested by viewers from all over the world.

"Rewind" takes viewers back through the video archives, adding up to a full hour of the greatest video classics. The program recaps what the music charts looked like in past decades, occasionally reaching all the way back to the '60s.

"Over the Edge" is a half hour dedicated to alternative music. It incorporates requests from fans, quotes from alternative artists, new videos, and a chart that highlights the better alternative sounds today.

"The Juice" is a weekly show featuring the hottest R & B, soul and funk sounds, increasingly popular genres these days.



JENNIFER Lopez and her songs have been showcased on the music channel's various programs.

Rock music

"House of Noise" is a high-octane showcase for rock music. Guest artists include established rockers like Def Leppard, Bon Jovi, Metallica and Aerosmith, as well as new bands like Fuel, Matchbox 20 and Reef.

"Amped" features the even more extreme acts in the rock genre, like Sepultura, Korn, Kid Rock, Marilyn Manson and Simon Says.

"The Ticket" is a fast-paced weekly program devoted to the world of entertainment. The show's production team covers film sets, premieres, press trips, film festivals, the indie movie scene, etc.

International music

"The Channel [V] Countdown" features Asia's best-selling international music, culled from radio airplay, viewer requests and record sales across the Asia Pacific region.

"[V] Around the World" is about music from all over—from Mongolian throat singing to Japanese blues, Swedish rock to American country, South American rap to English electronica. New artists and the latest releases are also spotlighted.

"The Drum." Australia's "Mr. Music," Ian Meldrum, brings viewers an hour of concerts and specials, as well as revealing interviews and behind-the-scene video footage.

Not much to laugh …

From p. C3

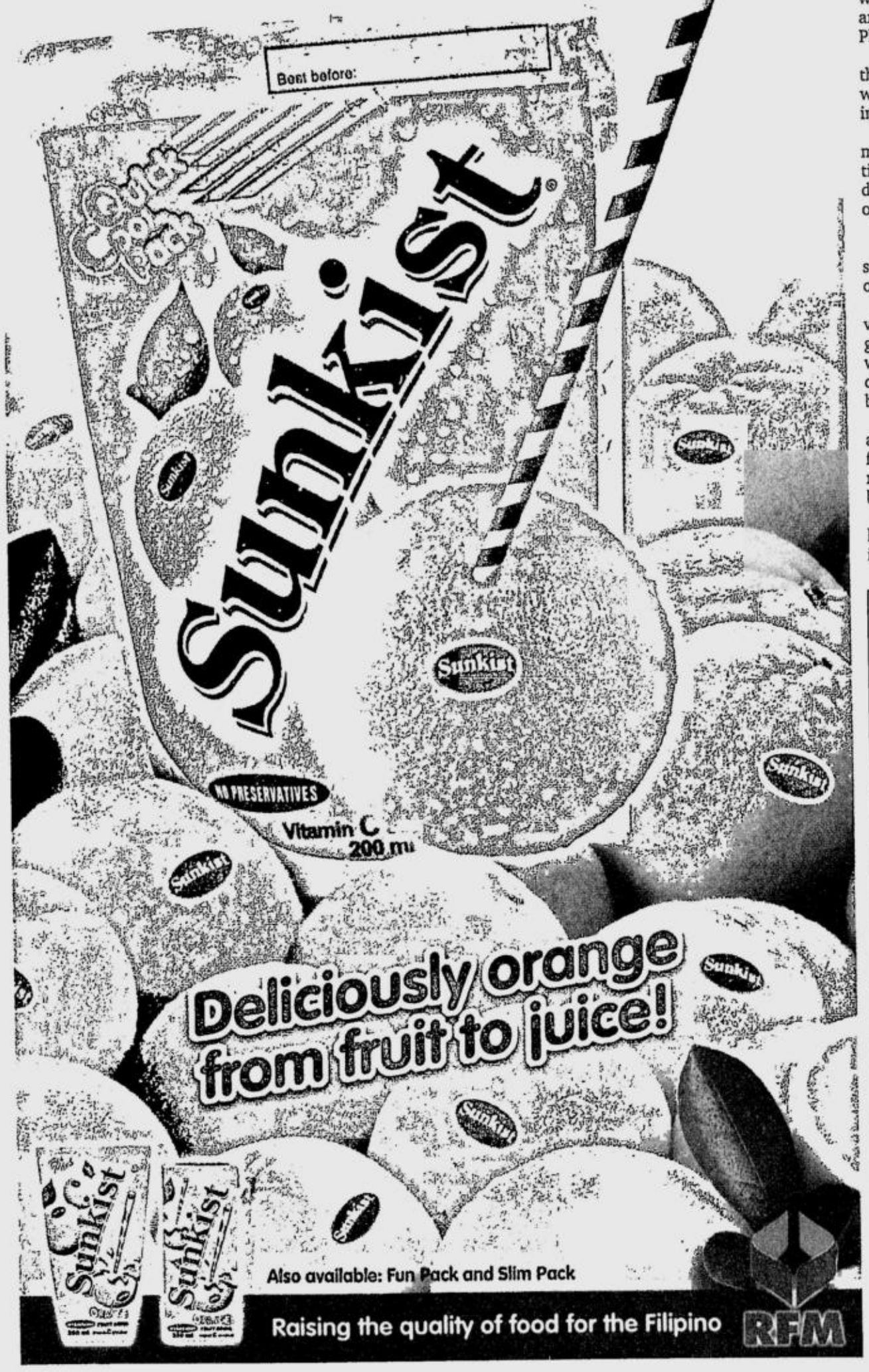
Safe outlet

"What I like about our local comedy shows are the impersonations, especially about people like our former president. Poking fun at these people serves as a safe outlet for the anger that people feel toward them."—*Brian Arceo, Bulacan*

Lifeless gags

"Isa lang ang masasabi ko: kailan pa ba tayo magkakaroon ng comedy show na matalino at pinag-iisipan? Nabobobo kasi ako pag nanonood ako ng mga palabas ngayon. The jokes are old, the gags are lifeless, and they keep forgetting to give us the punchline.

"At puwede ba, ang comedy dapat sa mga komedyante lang at hindi sa mga big names na wala naming alam sa pagpapatawa."—Mindy Chua, Diliman



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2500, Series of 2002

SATURDAY Special

Regine loves being Cacai's big sister

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

REGINE Velasquez wafts into the room with a certain coolness. But, like a chameleon, her mood changes when younger sis, Cacai, cuddles up beside her.

Affection

They make an interesting pair because of their subtle similarities and stark differences. But the closeness and affection is definitely there.

Regine smiles, "Yes we're close. She's my best friend. Cacai and I used to share one bed. *Maliit na maliit yung* bed, so *talagang siksikan kami. Nakaganito lang kami,*" she laughs as they demonstrate a tight embrace.

CACAI AND REGINE. Subtle similarities and stark differences.

"Noong lumipat kami sa Tabang, Bulacan, roommates din kami. Pero noong binili namin yung katabing lot, *ginawan ako ng* room *sa itaas. Sabi ko kay* Cacai, *maiwan ka na dito sa* old room *natin, mag-*divorce *na tayo!"*

Cacai grins, *"Pero sabi ko, Ate, ayoko."*

Reason

Regine interrupts, "Ang reason *niya, ang konti-konti daw ng gamit niya. Siyempre, ha-hakutin ko lahat ng gamit ko."*

Cacai pouts, *"Ang maiiwan sa* cabinet, *tatlong damit."*

Regine explains, *"Kasi,* we used to share clothes before."

Cacai giggles, *"Pero ngayon, magkaiba na kami ng* size."

REGINE/ p. D2

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P49

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WEI-CHUAN FOODS
Fried Chicken, Plain Rice, Soup

P59

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Lugaw, Okoy, 16oz Softdrink

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Kamaboko Ramen, 1 Takoyaki

P69

SIZZLING PLATE
Spareribs, Java Rice and Mix Vegetables

KIMCHI
Choice of Beef, Chicken, Rice, Soup, Togue, 8oz Iced Tea

Cindys
Sweet & Sour Pork, Rice, Soup, 8oz. Sago't Gulaman

P79

LYDIA'S LECHON
Paella, Pork Barbecue

Sandy's Cuisine
Beef Chili, Kangkong w/ Oyster Sauce

ILONGGO GRILL
Daing na Bangus, Manggang Hilaw, Plain Rice

P89

Inihaw EXPRESS
Sinigang na Baboy, Inihaw na Bangus, Rice

Chris eXpress
Pata Tim, Seafoods Curry Long Life Noodles, Rice

PINOY TOPPINGS
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SM FOODCOURT

'Happy Times' at Greenbelt ArtFilm

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

CHINESE director Zhang Yimou became famous for filming historical dramas like "Raise the Red Lantern" and "Ju Dou," movies about women in trying situations. But Zhang doesn't like being typecast, so he's occasionally shifted to directing contemporary dramas like "Not One Less" and "The Road Home," to similar acclaim.

His latest film, "Happy Times," is another outstanding and insightful production that shouldn't be missed. In the bittersweet tale, Dong Jie plays a blind girl who is rejected by her stepmother, and gets help from a very unlikely source—her stepmom's old suitor, who's also been rejected.

Aside from being a moving story about down-and-out individuals, "Happy Times" also reveals truths about China's newfound capitalism, and the Chinese's growing appetite for wealth and status.

Zhang sees both good and bad points in this development: It's good that people are living better, but it's unfortunate that money has become an end in itself.

"Happy Times" will be screened at Greenbelt ArtFilm starting Sept. 4.

Album of religious songs

Marian devotees will be pleased to know that Danny Holmsen has come up with "Ave Maria-Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe," an album of religious songs and hymns to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Aquarius Records release leads off with Holmsen's "Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe," sung by Cely Bautista. Suceeding cuts feature Diomedes Maturan with "No Greater Love," and Sylvia La Torre with "Farewell, My Friend," another Holmsen composition.

The next three songs are also by Holmsen: "Smile" with Jackie Cervantes, "I'll Keep on Loving You" with Nino Javier, and "Mama Mia, Mama Kita" with Cely Baustista.

Other cuts: "Dear God, I Thee Implore, interpreted by Diomedes Maturan. Holmsen's "Ave Maria" with Sylvia La Torre. Holmsen's "Live Each Day" with Ric Manrique.

"Mother Song" with Jackie Cervantes. Holmsen's "Thank God" with Nino Javier. "O, Birheng Maria" with Cely Bautista. "Ikaw" with Ric Manrique.

The concluding cuts are "Ay, Oo Naman," "Mary, Mother of God," "Please Hold My Hand," "Give Me Your Love," "The Beatitudes" and "Stairway to Heaven."

Feedback

From **Gerardo B. Reynaldo of San Miguel, Manila:** "Sometimes, for unknown reasons, our local film distributors or theater owners manage to look beyond the profit margins of the usual Hollywood hit, and surprise local movie buffs by releasing products of true cinematic worth. We had the delightful opportunity of watching `Amelie.' We had not expected it to be shown locally, but there it was in all its Gallic glory.

"The other notable non-Hollywood movie being screened is `Dog Soldiers.' An all-British film, its story about a British Army squad besieged by a pack of unkillable werewolves in the Scottish countryside also manages to upend our dour expectations that the British movie industry is only capable of producing understated period dramas and Hugh Grant comedies.

"Of the two and knowing what we really want, we look on the proceedings set forth by this horror thriller as an inspired piece of work. Being a hybrid of such predecessors as 'Predator' and 'Aliens' and all those westerns and commando last-stands of World War II movies, we should know what to expect.

"But what sets it apart from the standard-issue firepower movie is the earnestness of the actors, so much so that would-be hammy lines come across as both amusing and right for the part.

"There is also much to enjoy here specially since the black humor ("Sausages!" screams the disemboweled sarge as his guts spill out) and the funny results are enough to notch down the level of heavy gravity.

"This sort of madness extends to the brilliant use of superglue and whiskey in a scene not to be forgotten. And the typical British sangfroid in dire situations that make for good movie villains and foppish aristocrats is replaced by stalwart, obviously working-class grunts who do not keep the upper lip stiff but go balls-out with the occasional smart-aleck quip.

"These, through the fantastic direction of Neil Marshall, are made known even if the slang and the accents are as impenetrable as Edsa traffic—unless the theaters have got a good sound system, it's hard to keep up with the dialogue.

"A tricky, seemingly low-budget production, its filmmakers do not sacrifice the tension (the werewolves are kept menacing by confining them to the shadows) and the authenticity of the grunts' equipment: the issue of the SA 80 assault rifle, for example, and the cool-looking British Army kit worn by our reel warriors.

"Howlingly (pun intended!) good too is the rip-roaring finale staged within the confines of a cottage!

"Sadly, though, some theaters dropped this fine movie from their slots. Our appreciation this time goes to those people in the distribution industry who now and then sneak in the unexpected, much to our astonishment."

DONG Jie plays a blind girl in Zhang Yimou's latest film.

DANNY Holmsen's "Ave Maria—Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe."

Celso Ad. Castillo to shoot biopic

Direk Celso Ad. Castillo is set to do the biopic of Laguna's first lady governor, Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, "Ningning ng Bituin (Gov. Teresita 'Ningning' Lazaro of Laguna)."

Tapped to essay the role of Gov. Ningning is Lorna Tolentino, with 10-year-old newcomer Kim Erasga playing the governor's young, scholarly and dutiful daughter.

Direk Celso vows that this will be one of his best political films, into which he intends to inject lessons in values through the life stories of Laguna's heroines, as taught by Gov. Ningning, who was once a teacher herself.

All about men

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

Men. There was a time that I dreaded this - talking to you about men. Well, you couldn't really blame me. After all, I did have enough experiences to prove that men were monstrous beasts out to rob damsels of their innocence.

Moon and stars

They'd woo and seduce their way into your heart, offer you the moon and the stars, and vow to make life a walk in paradise for you—but once you'd fallen for their sweet charm and even sweeter promises, they'd bare their fangs and the monsters that they really were to start with.

I no longer think that men are like that. I now believe that men are jewels in the rough, and God uses the love of a woman He has especially chosen to polish them and make them truly shine.

But I also believe that God has already matched individual men and women since the beginning of time. Even before you were born, God has already predestined the man who will be perfect for you—perfect in His (not in your) eyes. Because problems will surely arise if your idea of Mr. Right does not correspond with God's will for you.

Magical experience

My dear Clara, beware, because this happens. Girls like you usually see love through rose-colored lenses. Romance to you is a magical experience, an enchanting journey to fantasyland. Well, it is also that. But you should open your eyes to what goes beyond. Romance has this habit of fading away at the first hint of trouble.

There is this story about a girl who bought a parrot from a petshop. She returned the following day to complain that the parrot didn't talk. She was told to buy a ladder because going up and down the steps could stimulate the parrot to talk.

The next day, the girl again went back to the petshop, because her parrot still didn't talk. She was advised to buy a swing, because swinging to and fro inside its cage could induce the bird to at least make a sound.

Still the parrot didn't talk. The girl was next made to buy a seesaw. But this, too, didn't work. Finally, she returned to the petshop to report that the parrot had died. "It never did talk?" the petshop owner inquired. "Well, it did," the girl replied. "Just before it dropped dead, it asked, 'Doesn't that petshop sell food?'"

Yes, Clara, before you accept love from a man, be sure that he has what it takes to feed that love. Don't be dazzled by the ladders and swings and seesaws. They will entertain you momentarily, but they will not sustain the love that the two of you shall share.

Flashy car

Choose your man wisely and well, Clara. Don't go for just the cute—even if that would mean cute grandchildren for me. Don't go for the one with the flashy car and the even flashier smile, even if he would make you the envy of all the girls in your corner of the world. Go beyond the physical. Scratch the surface and see if the guy knows how to bleed. Find out if he's real. Discover the core beneath the impressive exterior.

Here are some tips on the men you should avoid:

Those who accept your offer to split the bill when you go out on a date. Don't listen to the feminist line that with women's liberation came the right to pay for the food you eat on a date. By all means, waive that right. I mean, if a guy can't pay for your food at the time when he's supposed to put his best foot forward, how do you expect him to feed you when you're married?

Those who borrow money from you. You're much too young and precious to devalue yourself down to the level of a sugar mama. Don't melt in front of those cute, goo-goo eyes and those soft, wet lips trying to make you and your money part ways. God meant woman to support man—but not financially. For in the dynamics of man-woman relationships, man is meant to be the provider.

Balloon

Those who prattle on and on about themselves to impress you, but don't have an ear to listen to you talk about yourself. What is soft-skinned with a lot of hot air? A balloon. That's what guys like that are. Remember, a balloon bursts when there's too much air. And even if it doesn't burst, in time, the air escapes and the balloon shrivels away.

Those who give you outrageously expensive gifts. Don't mistake the gesture for the level of esteem with which he holds you— even if that may be so. It's much safer to think that he looks at you as some kind of merchandise he needs to invest on. Then, when he gets what he wants from you, he'll dump you and find other merchandise to invest in.

Those who talk till eternity about their moms. If their mother is No. 1, where will that put you? The story of quarreling in-laws is not only the stuff of which comedies are made—it is also the source of an endless stream of tears. Beware of the mama's boy! He may love you enough to get married, but when he get tired of getting the heat from both sides—from you and from his mom—guess who he can live without?

Those who tell you about the latest million they made. You can bet your bottom peso that they love their millions more than they have the capacity to love you. Also, they are the type who will compensate for their lack of time for you with oodles and oodles of money.

Cold night

Don't get me wrong. You can always go on a world tour with a lot of money—and I can go with you whenever your beloved cannot go with you because he's busy with his latest business deal. But you can't hug money on a cold night, can you?

Yes, Clara, there are a lot of things more important than money. Like creating memories together, sharing a life, holding hands while walking barefoot in the sand, just cuddling up in bed and allowing time to simply pass the two of you by.

Now, here are the men you should hope will come into your life:

Those who invite you to dine in a simple but decent place, even though they can afford the pricey ones. This means several things. One, the man is secure with himself and doesn't feel the need to impress you to get into your good graces. Two, he is wise with money. He wants to share a meal with you, but he's not the type to throw away hard-earned bucks for some fancy eats.

Those who want you to meet their family. This means that he's mighty proud of you and looks at forever as a distinct possibility for the two of you. It also means he has a stable family life. Besides, a guy who loves his family will raise a good family of his own.

Those who talk to you about dreams for the two of you. This means he sees a future with you in it. And his bouncing his dreams off you signifies his sensitivity to your own dreams, as well as his desire to merge your disparate dreams to make a life of together forever.

Genuinely interested

Those who ask and are genuinely interested about your family, your likes and dislikes, what makes you laugh or cry, your fears and insecurities. This is the kind of man who will want to bring out the best in you. He will willingly allow God to use him in perfecting His plan for you and for the two of you.

You can also rest assured that a man like this has the potential for healing the wounds of your past, and bringing you to the fullness of your gifts as a child of God.

Those who pray and gladly go with you to Sunday prayer service. Because, my dear Clara, a husband is not just provider and protector—he is also the pastor of the home, the smallest unit of the Church. He should bring you and your family closer to God, and bring God closer to you and your family.

Only with God at the center of your relationship as husband and wife and as a family can you begin to hope for a life that is happy, peaceful and rich.

Ah, Clara, I can go on and on. When it comes to lessons in life, they are best given not by those who succeeded on the first try, but by those who miserably failed lots of times but have eventually proven victorious, rising triumphantly from the ashes of defeat to claim the glory especially meant for them by God.

In this context, I humbly submit, where else can you possibly find a better teacher than—

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e-mail address: badids2000@yahoo.com

WWF

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Regine loves being . . .

From p. D1

Regine gives Cacai a meaningful look, *"Kasi ang payat mo ngayon. Ako, naging* fuller *na yung* figure *ko."*

Cacai corrects her: *"Mataba!"*

Regine smirks, "As you can see, *hindi siya masyadong malambing. Ako* very affectionate. I like touching people."

Cacai nods, *"Matigas ang ulo ko. Pero mas* friendly *ako kay Ate," then looks at Regine, "Masungit ka, e!"*

Regine agrees, *"Suplada! Ayoko yung hindi ko kilala,* then suddenly close *kami. Siyempre* I want to have space. But Cacai and I are really close. *Sa* Bulacan, we talk until four in the morning. We can talk for hours about anything."

Cacai laughs, "When she's constipated, *tatawagan niya ako para magpakuwento."*

Regine shares, "And when I put on make-up, *magpapakuwento din ako. Kahit yung tungkol sa mga kaibigan niya,* OK *lang.* I just want them (my siblings) to feel that they can approach me anytime.

Problem

"But, *ayoko yung makikialam ako.* If they have a problem and they don't want to talk, fine, I'll respect that. I know that they also need their privacy."

And what do they do for fun when they're out of the house? Does Regine act as Cacai's chaperone?

Regine shakes her head, "Ayaw ni Cai ng *may* chaperone. *Ako* I'm always with my *Tatay*. What do we sisters do? *Mahilig kaming magsukat ng damit. Bumili ng* make-up."

Cacai smiles, "Kapag may bagong make-up *si Ate,* we try it."

Regine interjects, "She's my worst critic!"

Cacai nods, "Pintasera ako kay Ate. *Lahat ng shows niya, simula nung bata pa siya, napanood ko, kahit magpa-excuse ako sa* class. *Nag-drama ako na may sakit ako, mapanood ko lang ang* concert *niya."*

Gowns

Regine snaps her fingers, "*Si* Cacai, *lahat ng* gowns *at gamit ko, kabisado niya. Alam niya kung saan nakalagay.* When I'm packing, *lalapit yan, 'Ate hindi mo pa nasusuot yung* gown *mo na ganito. Sasabihin ko, "Wala akong ganyan!" Sasagot siya, "Meron." Tapos hahanapin niya. Minsan* I pretend *na hindi ko alam, para hanapin niya kasi tamad nga ako."*

But Regine admits that since she transferred to her new townhouse, she has had to do household chores. "I've learned how to cook, to buy groceries. *Nakakatawa nga, kasi noong* first time *kong pumunta sa* grocery, *ang ingay-ingay ko.* I started *sa* meat section, *pero pagdating ko doon, nakaganito lang ako,"* she demonstrates with her mouth open while pushing her shopping cart. *"Ang dami palang klaseng meat. Akala ko kagaya sa palengke. Sanay ako sa palengke kapag kasama ko ang Nanay ko, konti lang ang pinagpipilian."*

Playing big sister to Cacai comes naturally to Regine. When does she see herself setting down? Regine haggles: "I'm still young. I'm not getting old! Turning 50 is old. Women these days get married in their 30s. Women are more career-oriented!" Cacai laughs.

Getting to know the boys from Blue

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

THIS week's Q & A: "Please feature the latest exciting boy band of the moment, Blue. Where do they come from? Are they single? Will they be visiting the Philippines anytime soon? It would be great if you could include individual profiles." —*Karen Lomon Diaz, Pagadian*

Blue, composed of the quartet of Antony Daniel Costa, Duncan Matthew James, Lee Ryan and Simon Solomon Webbe, hails from London. They came to the London music scene (around early 2000) at a time when almost every other high-profile boy band, with the exception of A1, was either inactive, splitting up or on the verge of breaking up.

(**Take That** has long disbanded. **Boyzone** is already "zoneless." **Ultra** never quite took off, inspite of their good looks and sufficient musicality. **Five** is now zero, while **911's** career needs a 911. Even the extremely popular **Westlife** is rumored to be in that "interesting group dynamics" stage.)

Their debut single, "All Rise," which is still a pop staple on Philippine airwaves, entered the charts at No. 4, and was followed by two consecutive smash number ones—their cover of Next's "Too Close," and "If You Come Back."

Their debut album, "All Rise," recorded in the United Kingdom and Norway, reached double platinum status in six weeks, and ended the year as the third biggest album of 2001.

The boys are all single, although Simon readily admits to siring a daughter from a past relationship.

Profiles

Their capsule profiles: Antony (born June 23, 1981 in Middlesex) is 5'9" tall, has dark brown-black hair and brown eyes, and loves the music of George Michael, particularly "Father Figure." Favorite clothes store: Diesel. He is said to be the comedian of the group.

Duncan (April 7, 1979 in Wilts) is 5'11", light brown-blond hair and blue eyes, loves Marvin Gaye, Natalie Imbruglia's "Left of the Middle" album and the sitcom "Friends." Favorite clothes store: Levis. Scent: Cool Waters.

Simon, the cool black guy of the group (March 30, 1979 in Manchester) is 5'10", black hair, brown eyes, adores Wesley Snipes.

Lee, the youngest (June 17, 1983 in Kent), is 5'11", blond with blue-green eyes, loves Stevie Wonder, Boyz to Men's "Evolution" album, and Edward Norton's performances. Clothes store: Gucci. Scent: Coco Chanel.

Last week (Aug. 14), this devil-may-care attitude almost cost Lee his life. During a break from a magazine photo shoot, Lee went go-karting, drove too fast, lost control and got thrown off the tracks, suffering such serious injuries to his chest and lower torso that he may need a skin graft.

Carrier track

Their follow-up album is scheduled for release on Nov. 11, while the carrier track, "One Love," will be released sometime in October.

As for an Asian visit, the group is set to go on a five-country tour of Malaysia (Aug. 23), Singapore (the 24th), Indonesia (26th), Thailand (28th) and the Philippines (Sept. 2 at the NBC Tent).

BLUE. Their debut single, "All Rise," is still a pop staple on Philippine airwaves.

But, after the recent accident involving Lee, the Asian visit is currently up in the air.

If you want to see more of Blue, visit them online at www.officialblue.com.

Ricky Davao gets a thespic tune-up

Text and photo by Bibsy M. Carballo

IN HIS 20 years in the entertainment business, the road traveled by actor Ricky Davao has not always been smooth and straight. There were times when he took unnecessary detours, fell into ego traps and dead ends; but, through sheer effort and persistence and love for the job, he made his way back in the right direction.

Foundation

And always through his life's travels, Ricky's foundation in theater has seen him through.

Once again, Ricky Davao returns to the theater in "Insiang," adapted by Mario O'Hara from his filmic collaboration with Lino Brocka. Currently running at the CCP Experimental Theater (Tanghalang Huseng Batute) until Aug. 25, "Insiang" is still the powerful material it was on film, says Davao, perhaps even more so since the experience is immediate and live.

Playing the role of Dado (Ruel Vernal in the movie), Ricky is the live-in partner of Insiang's (newcomer Sheenly Vee Gener) mother (Malu de Guzman). He rapes the girl until she fights back.

O'Hara has introduced a new character in Toyang, the storyteller-narrator played alternately by Mae Paner and Peewee O'Hara.

Davao says that theater is a "tune-up." "It brings you back to the basics of discipline and dedication," he says, "and pulls you back to the ground after the pampering of movies and television, which can give you false notions of your worth. It is a humbling experience that puts you in touch with people so full of new ideas, people who are idealistic, and who love what they do."

Career

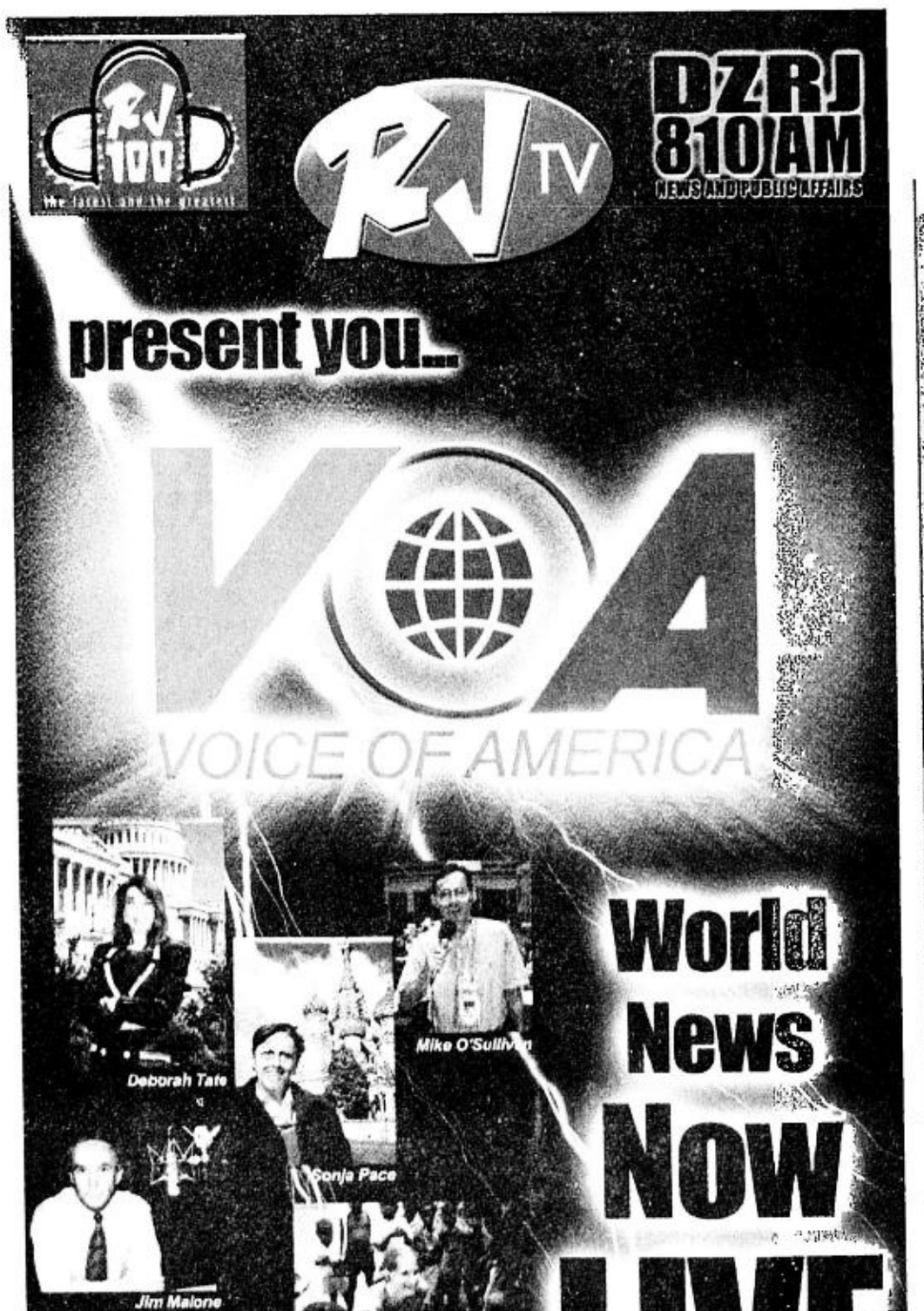
Although his career in entertainment keeps him busy (with tapings thrice weekly on the soap "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay" on ABS-CBN, movie assignments), and occasional TV directorial assignments, Davao makes it a point to schedule a theater outing at least once a year.

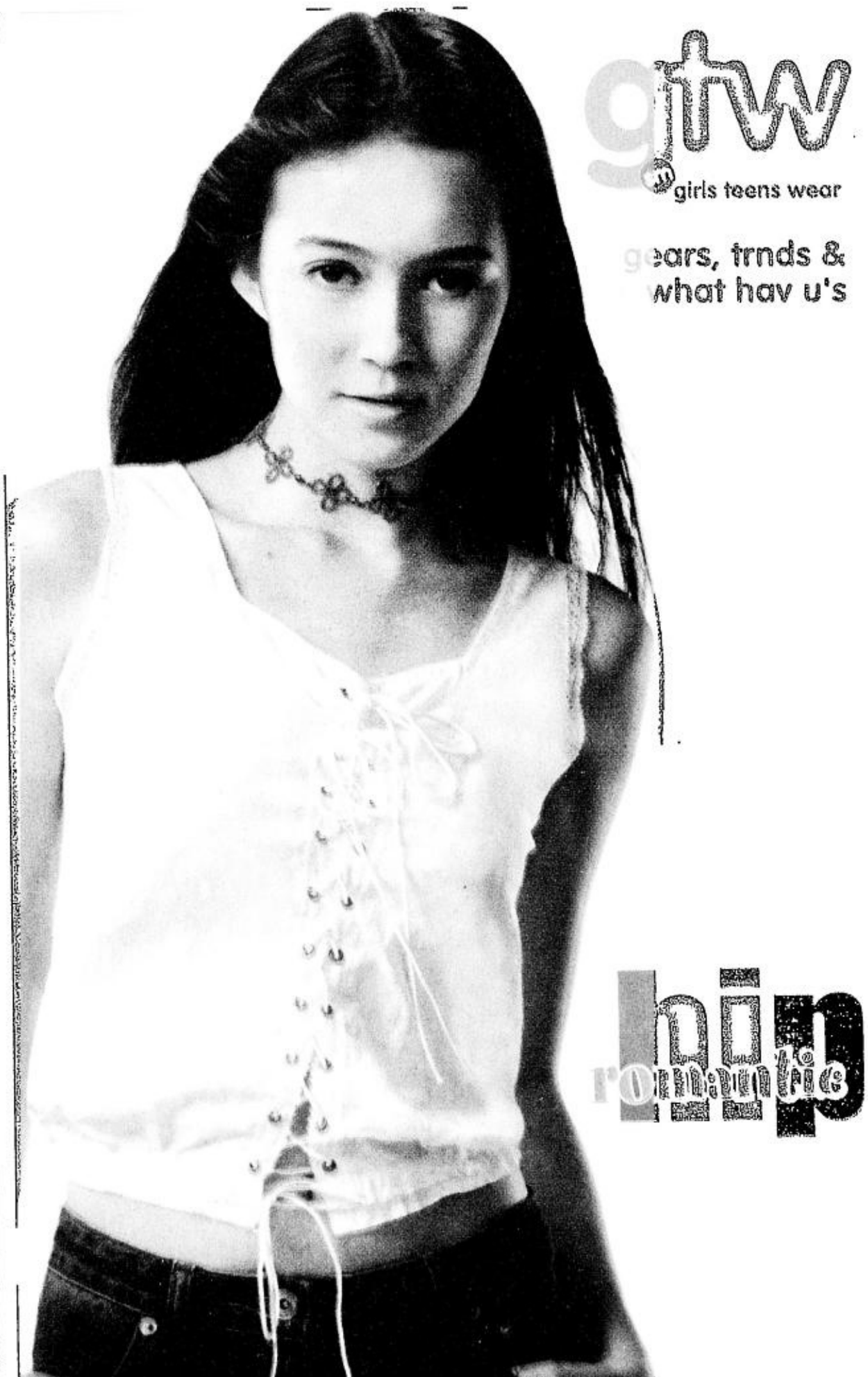
Of Dado, his character in "Insiang," Davao says shyly, "I feel I'm too *guwapo* for the role." True enough, watching him in the play with his new slim silhouette, one is bound to question why Dado wouldn't at least bag some support roles in the movies, instead of becoming a stuntman.

But Ricky feels himself now totally immersed in the character, perspiring profusely from the energy despite the near-freezing temperature of the rehearsal venue.

It is obvious that he enjoys the high that theater offers. Recalling his student days at Letran, when he would shuttle between school and rehearsals, Davao knows that he will never leave the theater. He will always return for that necessary "recharging" that the legitimate stage provides, where you are in direct communication with your audience.

RICKY, Malu and Sheenly act up a storm in "Insiang."





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PALTROW. Her roles have run the gamut from the silly to the sublime. (AP PHOTO/CHRIS PIZZELLO)

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Gwyneth Paltrow talks about life at 30

By Douglas J. Rowe

NEW YORK—With the approach of her 30th birthday, Gwyneth Paltrow knows at least two things are different from her younger days: She's more discriminating about what movies to make, and she now can play an emotionally cautious person based on personal experience.

Decade of work

"In my 20s, I tried everything," says the Academy Award-winning actress, whose past decade of work has run the gamut from the silly to the sublime.

She even signed on for films "because I liked an actress who was doing it" or "because friends were making it."

"And some things turned out better than others, obviously."

Just look at last year's "Shallow Hal" and "The Royal Tenenbaums."

"At this point—you know that I'm turning 30 in September, and I've spent my 20s working incessantly—what I've learned from all that work is that I really respond to directors who really have a point of view, and who really have something to say, and are very specific about how they say it," Paltrow says.

Integral part

"Whether it's Paul (Thomas) Anderson, or Wes Anderson, or Neil LaBute ... David Fincher ... That's when I feel most fulfilled, and most like an integral part of the process. I would like to as much as possible work with directors who really excite me and make me feel fired up about getting up in the morning and being on set and doing my job."

LaBute, who directed her in the new "Possession," a film adaptation of the 1990 Booker Prize-winning novel, says he was thrilled and charmed to find Paltrow is "still a hungry actor."

"There would be the ability there—and, as I would imagine, even the temptation—to skate by sometimes. To go: 'You know what? I've done this English dialect. I know what I'm doing here. I can waltz into this thing without much preparation and hit a home run.'"

(This film marks the fourth time she's sounded veddy British. The others were 1996's "Emma," and 1998's "Shakespeare in Love"—for which she won her best-actress Oscar—and "Sliding Doors.")

"And yet," LaBute goes on, "I found somebody who came into rehearsal who had done her homework, was ready to listen, ready to create the character—and not an easy character."

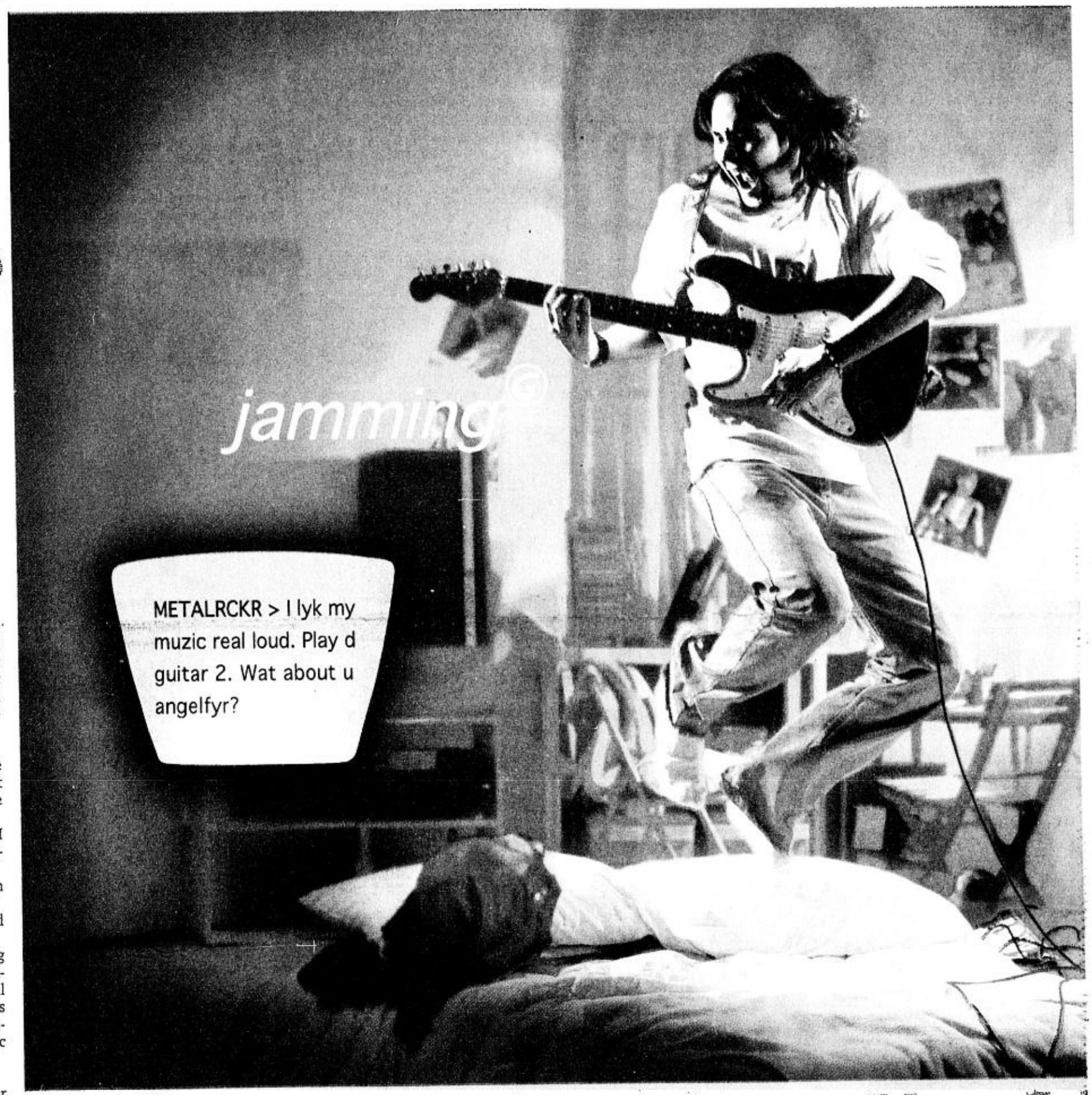
Paltrow's Maud Bailey, a skeptical academic, teams with an aspiring scholar (Aaron Eckhart) to uncover a love affair between two Victorian poets. Along the way, they fall in love too—but not before lots of self-protective posturing and hand-wringing.

"She is not immediately huggable in the movie," says LaBute. And to her credit, "Gwyneth never said, 'Hey, I got to have that moment where my public knows it's safe to like me.'"

Cumulative experience

Romantically linked over the years to Brad Pitt, Ben Affleck and Luke Wilson, Paltrow

GWYNETH/ p. E2



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Gwyneth Paltrow talks about life at 30

From p. E1

says she drew upon no single affair for her latest performance, but the cumulative experience of "living and loving."

"When I was 17 or 22, it was a much different story in terms of how I would approach something," says Paltrow, who soon starts work on a film about Sylvia Plath and her marriage to poet Ted Hughes.

She also approached romance differently. Back then, like many young people, she could immerse herself in passion as if she were dousing herself in kerosene and lighting a match.

"And then you learn not to do that, I think," she says, with a little laugh. "Fortunately, or unfortunately."

In "Possession," the Victorian couple comes across as much more straight-ahead about their romantic urges than their modern counterparts are. They're held back only by the conventions of 19th-century society.

"We have none of those conventions, so I think we impose on ourselves a way that we have to hold back—which is by overanalyzing everything and making everything a study in psychology," Paltrow says.

Tabloid target

A paparazzi pet and tabloid target, Paltrow can barely make a move without it making the papers.

"Every time she purchases a belt, she's scrutinized," LaBute notes.

He thinks that's because she's "iconic," like Audrey Hepburn or Grace Kelly.

"Luckily for me, I made a decision about 3 1/2 years ago to stop reading celebrity journalism and those kinds of newspapers and magazines," says Paltrow, who says she only read the Financial Times when she was in London recently doing the play "Proof."

"So I don't really know much of what goes on. Unless it's really inflammatory. And then someone will say 'Is it true ...?' And I say 'No! Where on earth did you hear that?"

The single worst part of stardom has been having to deal with a stalker. (Earlier this year, a California appellate court upheld the December 2000 conviction of an Ohio man who sent hundreds of letters, e-mails and packages to her, and showed up at the home of her parents, actress Blythe Danner and producer-director Bruce Paltrow.)

"When your safety is at stake,that is definitely the nadir. It was a traumatic experience. And it was really traumatic for my parents."

No ice princess

In person, Paltrow comes across not at all like the ice princess she's so good at playing. She happily explains her macrobiotic diet, saying she just tries "to eat as organic, as locally grown, as seasonal as possible, as close to the state that you find them in nature ... as if there were no agribusiness, hormones and pesticides."

She avoids dairy, meat (she does eat fish), and anything processed or refined.

GWYNETH has been romantically linked to Brad Pitt, Ben Affleck and Luke Wilson.

"Since I've been eating this way, I've felt incredibly good and healthy. It's not been like a weight thing," the willowy blonde says, then chuckles. "I've actually gained weight, from all the whole grains and stuff like that."

After this interview, she's planning to eat at a gastronomic Valhalla of Italian cooking in New York, Babbo, and adds: "By the way, if I want a bite of someone's pie one night, I'll have a bite of the pie. The sugar in it doesn't make me feel very good, but I'm not going to deprive myself."

"And I'm not one of those people, either, who eat a certain way and get up on a soapbox and say 'I do it right.' I just do my own thing ... everybody else can do what they want." *AP*

Meet Robi Joseph, busy TV-commercial talent

By Leia Torre

JOSEPH. Loves to laugh.

HE has lately been noticed on TV as the hilarious guy who gets himself attacked by shrimps *and* by a barbecue grill in the new Lucky Me! commercials. He's also the guy who laughs his head off in the Globe Nokia 7650 ad. But those three ads are not Robert Ian "Robi" Joseph's first television commercial stints.

His first was when he was still a kid. He was an extra in a commercial for InstaMeal. This was followed by spots for Pik-One, Sarsi, Chow King.

Diverse

The things he had to do in those advertisements were as diverse as the products themselves. For the Pik-One spot, he had to mime, and for Sarsi, he had to have his hair cut and dyed blond, aside from performing a dance and rap number.

The commercials for the last three products he has endorsed, however, have one thing in common: they all feature his trademark laugh. Because laughing, according to Robi, is something he's good at.

Aside from acting in commercials, he has done some theater acting, and is currently affiliated with Trumpets. He enjoys acting in both mediums, although he finds them extremely different from each other.

Projection

Theater requires exaggeration and projection to fill a large space, while acting for the camera is "done by unit."

There are a number of additional perks that commercial talents enjoy, like getting as much food as they can eat during a shoot, and having the opportunity to work with some of the best directors and production people.

Acting for TV commercials can be tough, however. Robi maintains that the two traits that have assisted him in penetrating the world of advertising are *"kawalanghiyaan* and perseverance." You have to be willing to do almost anything, and you have to be patient enough to wait for things to happen.

Robi's advice to people interested in appearing in commercials: get a good agency.

Animation

He likes acting, but it isn't his whole life. He studies animation at Cyclone Arts and Technologies, Asia Campus.

Singing is another activity that he enjoys. He is a member of the Akafellows, an all-male *a capella* group that performs popular songs. He also likes video games, which are applications of the things that he is currently learning at animation school.

'Walk with faith in your heart'

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THAT'S a line taken from an old song that aptly applies to the real meaning of Alay Lakad. Every year, volunteers walk from two to 10 kilometers and derive more from it than healthy exercise.

Consortium

This is the time of year that the Alay Lakad Foundation, a consortium of various government agencies, civic groups, business organizations and responsible individuals committed to the development of the youth, conducts this annual walkathon nationwide. This year is especially significant since Alay Lakad is celebrating its 30th anniversary of walking and helping.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL beneficiary of Alay Lakad undergoes food processing seminar.

The idea is for every civic-minded citizen in every city and municipality to join a mass hike along prescribed routes.

This walk-for-a-cause event has a two-fold objective: to raise public consciousness about the plight of millions of Filipino youth who cannot stay in school, and to increase public support for various projects for out-of-school youths.

The foundation takes pride in having reached out to more than 46,000 OSY beneficiaries through 592 assisted projects.

Projects

Projects include candle making, pedicab, micro enterprises, ornamental plant propagation, agriculture, and entrepreneurial efforts. Educational assistance is also given to poor but deserving youths who wish to go back to school.

This year's hosts are Rotary International Districts 3810 and 3830, with Gen. Francisco Atayde (ret) and Gregorio Navarro as overall co-chairpersons.

Organizations

Parties interested in joining the Alay Lakad may enlist their organizations or clubs and join thousands of volunteers at the Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park on Sunday, Sept. 1. Business establishments can give their donations on the day of the annual walk itself, or they may choose to serve refreshments to the expected almost one million "walkers" at Rizal Park.

ROTARY District 3830 Governor Jun Perez, right, hands a check for P50,000 to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Alay Lakad President Frank Evaristo.

Alay Lakad will sell commemorative motor vehicle plates and a commemorative cover to raise funds. Call 523-1359/ 522-6134 or e-mail: alaylakad@asia.com.

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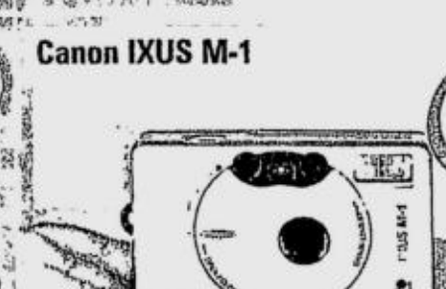

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Spiritual miracle workers on TV

By Mona Gonzalez

FOR the longest time, I've been switching channels here and there, and occasionally stop to take a few minutes to watch Miracle.Net (Channel 39 on Destiny Cable). This is the Christian network and you can get it all day.

Initially, I would take exception to the on-camera people's hairstyles. There was a woman who had pink, pouffed hair. She was married to a pastor who has Elvis Presley hair.

Longer time

But for the last two days, I have been "bed-potatoing" (my version of being a couch potato, since I watch TV in bed). And so, I had a chance to watch Miracle.Net for a longer time.

What did I find? First, I came across at least three pastors whose hair I didn't like. Second, two pastors wore Nehru shirts. And third, if you are having the blues, nonstop viewing of Miracle.Net can really raise your spirits.

Two religious stations

There are two religious stations on Destiny Cable. The second, Channel 38, is a Catholic station. I know people who watch that 7/24 (seven days a week, 24 hours a day).

Here's what I found out from watching Miracle.Net 2/24 for the past two days: The preachers I liked were Creflo Dollar, Joyce Meyers, Benny Hinn (yes, he with the Nehru shirt), and Rev. John Hartman (the Elvis Presley guy. He even sang at the end of his segment!)

The others were okay, but simply didn't have the "X" factor. I watched Joyce Meyer, who walks, moves and dresses like one of my best friends. I like her because she speaks clearly and coherently, gets to the point fast, and states it in an interesting way.

Next, I saw Michael J. Hughes and his Indian wife, Sarah. Michael had a translator who repeated every sentence he said, in Indian. If you're not in a good mood when you're watching that, you may get irritated by the set-up.

Too basic

On the up side, Michael talks clearly and directly, but I found his lessons too basic for me, His show would be more appropriate for beginners in the faith.

After Michael came the program, "Keys to the Kingdom" hosted by Michael Tackett. Frankly, I felt he used too many four-syllable words. You have to make an effort to listen to what he's saying, but if you do, you'll get some good messages.

Here's what I got: "The Lord's compassion never fails. It's new every morning." And, "God will use the good and bad times to draw you to him."

Tackett was followed by Pastor Kuna Sepulveda, who hosts the program, "Word of Life." I liked her program for the same reasons—it was clear, concise, straight to the point.

The following day, I again turned to Miracle. Net and the program featured a singing group, two women and one man. They sang well, and I liked their song.

My friend Betty once observed, "When it's a Christian band, the singers are usually old. When it's a secular band, they have young, good-looking guys." Well, the singers here were probably in their 40s, and they had good voices. I guess that puts them one point above some local secular shows that feature popular young stars who can't sing—and make them—guess what? Sing!

Fun to watch

I also came across the programs of the Rev. Ernest Angley, who is fun to watch in a comical, sweet way. I know of one woman who would watch Ernest Angley for comic relief. Well, that was some 10 years ago, and now she's a believer.

I also watched the programs of Benny Hinn, Pastor Philip Goudeaux and Rev. John Hartman. They made me recall the time someone once told me that the Christian faith was filled with so much emotionalism.

Speaking from experience, I would say that worship services are, indeed, emotional, but living your faith day to day, moment by moment, is one of the most clear-minded and consistent experiences I've ever had in my life.

And I'd prefer a quiet life with a noisy Sunday shebang, to a quiet Sunday and a life of quiet desperation.

Regal Films' newest bold discovery introduced in 'Laman'

By Edmund L. Sicam

FIRST-TIME bold star Lolita de Leon is being billed as the "glorious owner of the biggest pair of boobs in the business," but after watching a sneak preview of her movie "Laman," directed by Maryo J. delos Reyes, we believe she has more to offer than that.

DE LEON. Very vital statistics.

Innocent 'probinsiyana'

In the movie, she plays an inhibited and innocent *probinsyana* who, along with her naive husband (Yul Servo) is lured to the big city with its promise of the good life.

That fairy-tale image of the city is shattered when the two room with Yul's best friend (Albert Martinez). Albert describes his character as a "first-rate hustler. *"Yung tipo ng lalaking napakagaling tumunog sa* weaknesses *ng mga taong kahalubilo niya* everyday and, because of his ingenuity, *nagagawa niyang pagsamantalahan sila* in such a way *na parang* he's doing them a really big favor."

At the *lechonan* where he works and gets Yul a job, Albert is the lover of the owner (Elizabeth Oropesa), who has a Japanese boyfriend.

Eventually, Albert seduces Lolita, whose sexual passion is awakened by the hustler's expertise in lovemaking, something her husband lacks. Later, she will agree to be a sexual partner to both Yul and Albert, but that arrangement backfires.

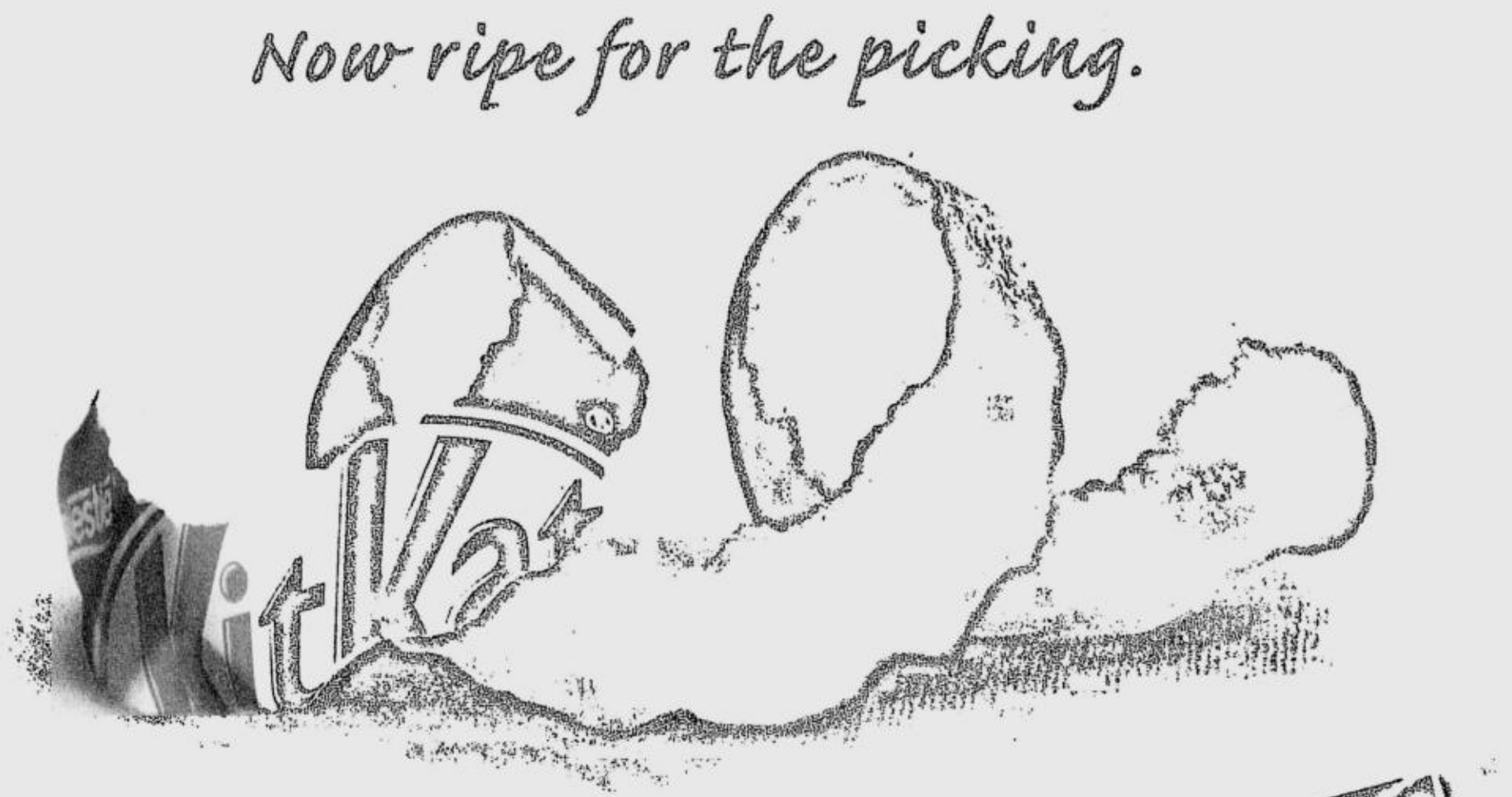
Lolita reminded us of Italian actresses like Sophia Loren and Silvana Mangano because of the raw quality of her sex appeal.

Sensuality

Lolita manages to project the sensuality required by her role. She is also alright when she only has short lines to deliver. However, when heavy drama is involved and she has to deliver long lines and display powerful emotions, she falters, but not to the point of spoiling the scenes. After all, this is only her first movie and for a debut, she handled herself rather well.

Her real name is Racquel de la Cruz, and she's 20 years old, the sixth of 10 children, eight of whom are girls.

Lolita was discovered two years ago by Maryo J and Joey Gosiengfiao at a party of a common friend. They exchanged calling cards and soon after, she did a pictorial, and Mother Lily liked the results. However, it wasn't until early this year that she finally signed a 12-picture contract. She started shooting "Laman" on May 1 and the movie was finished in a month.



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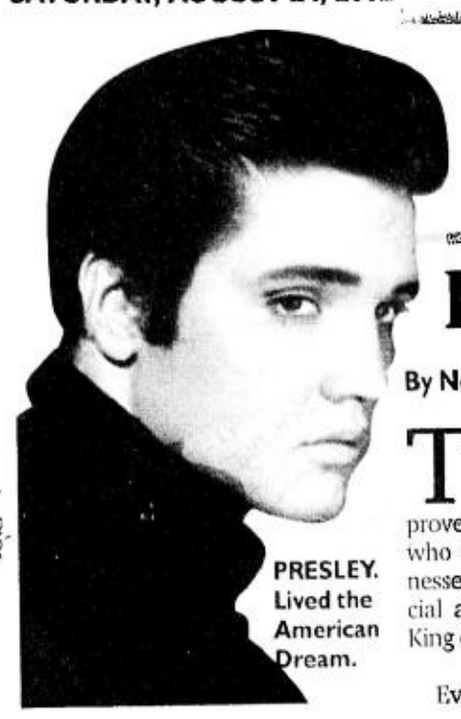

PRESLEY. Lived the American Dream.

Elvis Presley forever—and ever

By Nestor U. Torre

TWENTY-FIVE years after his death, Elvis Presley is still a big show biz draw, as proven by the thousands of people who converged on Memphis, Tennessee last week to mark the special anniversary of the "deathless' King of rock `n' roll.

Highlight

Every August, Elvis' fans observe his death anniversary, but this year's rites were particularly heartfelt. The highlight was a big concert in which Elvis himself "performed" (on a big screen), and even "interacted" with the band and some celebrity soloists.

Why does fans' devotion to Elvis refuse to die? One analyst volunteers the observation that, when Elvis first made his mark in the '50s, his fans were young people who associated their teen and young-adult years with their idol.

Innocent time

To them, he was more than a star, he symbolized the special quality of the '50s themselves, an innocent time when "ordinary" youths like the swivel-hipped singer from Tupelo, Tennessee could live the American Dream, all the way to the top.

ELVIS/ p. F2

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Rita Avila turns in a strong performance in Seiko's 'Bakat'

By Andy P. Bais

SEIKO Films' forthcoming movie, the controversial "Bakat," offers more than just the steamy love scenes of its young leads, Diana Zubiri and Rodel Velayo. People who've watched the movie in preview are one in saying that it also highlights strong performances from its senior players, notably Tommy Abuel, Daria Ramirez and Rita Avila.

Comeback movie

"Bakat" is Rita's comeback movie after more than two years. This is also her comeback vehicle with Seiko, which was her home studio for eight years.

She reveals that her decision to go slow in doing movies was her own choice. "I just got tired of it. I also wanted to get married—*na hindi naman natuloy.* That was also the time *na may* slump *ang* movie industry.

"And when I got offers, it was either *pangit ang* role or *binabarat ako sa* talent fee. *Ano ba yan, parang wala nang respeto?* I didn't want to feel that way. So I told myself that if ever I'd do a film, *dapat,* I really liked the role *at magaling ang* director. Or, if I couldn't have both, I should be paid well. So, for two years, *nag*-concentrate *na lang ako sa* TV," she explains.

So what made her decide to do a movie again? "*Tito* Robbie Tan called me *at nahihiya naman ako kasi* I wouldn't be Rita Avila without him. He told me *na na*-miss *na ako ng mga tao at maganda daw ang* role *ko,*" she says.

Sister

In "Bakat," Rita plays the sister of Rodel Velayo who hates her father (Tommy Abuel) because he's married a much younger woman (Diana Zubiri), who she fears will get a share of their inheritance.

"I play a not-so-nice character in this movie who turns out to be *mabait pala* when I find that my father's young wife has a good soul. *Kahit* sexy *ang* movie, wholesome *naman ang* role *ko,*" Rita grins.

Rita says her Seiko homecoming was like being with her family again. '*Yung* crew, *sila pa rin at ang* director *na si* Francis "Jun" Posadas *ay parang* father *ko na.* In fact, I call him *Ama.* We did a number of movies before *sa* Seiko. *Ang sarap ng* feeling," she shares.

One of her best memories of the time when she was still a Seiko Jewel was her chance to work with some of the country's top-caliber directors and actors.

Mentors

In "Sumayaw ka Salome," she was directed by Laurice Guillen, whom she considers as one of her acting mentors, along with Gina Alajar. "Laurice is a serious director. She gives you clear details of what she wants to be done. *Kaya* as a result, *ang dali-daling sundan ng kanyang gustong mangyari.* She's also very appreciative-*kung natutuwa siya sa ginawa mo, sasabihin talaga niya,*" she enthuses.

Rita also worked with Chito Rono in "Stella Magtanggol." She was elated by the fact that, when Robbie Tan asked Chito to do a movie for Seiko, he wanted her to play the lead role. "Chito is very strict and serious once he is on the set.

"An experience with Chito that I can't forget was when we shot a movie in Pampanga when it was still heavily devastated by *lahar.* During a dinner break, we immediately went to the motel where we stayed for a much-needed shower after a day's work.

"*Ang problema, na*-late *kami pagbalik sa* set *ng isang oras. Nagalit si Chito at umalis din, at* after an hour *bumalik. Ganun lang,* shoot *na naman kami na parang walang nangyari,*" she recalls.

Among the actresses she has worked with, she can never forget her experience with the late Charito Solis. They worked together in "The Sisters," and she was humbled by the veteran actress' kindness and her being very supportive.

AVILA. Treasures her memories of acting with the late Charito Solis.

"She was known for being *mataray* and *masungit,* but she loved me. *Siguro dahil* on time *ako palagi,* and I knew my lines. *Parang nakita niya na* I was professional. She even wanted me to stay in her room *at pinapakain pa ako.*"

Cesar Montano and Joel Torre were Rita's favorite actors at Seiko. "*Parang* you just had to look into their eyes and everything else would flow. It was easy to react to them. *Nakaka*-inspire *ang galing nilang umarte,*" she relates.

Bit players

Rita reveals that she and Cesar were bit players in "Relasyon," the Vilma Santos starrer directed by Ishmael Bernal. "*Kinasal kami sa* movie, and we didn't know *na magkakasama kami* as a love team *sa 'Machete'* under Seiko," she gushes.

It is common knowledge that Rita was one of the so-called ST (sex-trip) beauties along with Gretchen Barretto and Cristina Gonzales. How was she convinced by Robbie Tan to do sexy roles?

"It was easy for him to convince me, *kasi naman,* I got excited with the project. I was confident because I knew I wasn't going to show anything—*ilusyon lang lahat ng ginawa namin.* Endless moaning, at legs and back *lang ang pinakita namin. Talagang na*-shock *ako* when I saw the still pictures *ng mga* delicate scenes *nina* Diana *at* Rodel. *Wala sa kalingkingan ang ginawa namin noon!*" she laughs.

ZARAGOZA. New repertoire.

Jessa Zaragoza starts bar tour tonight

By Edmund L. Sicam

JESSA Zaragoza started her career in show biz by appearing in movies. Even with her whistle-bait figure, Jessa's career went nowhere, so she turned instead to her first love, singing, and finally found her niche in the entertainment world. Many of her songs became huge hits and enabled her to enlarge her fan base. Even children respond to her songs and copy her gestures. Because of this, movie and TV producers asked her to try acting again, and today, the singer has come full circle and does movies and TV as well.

Special problem

Jessa, however, has a special problem that is unique to singers. Sometime ago, she was offered the part that went to VJ Belinda Panelo in the soap "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka" starring Judy Ann Santos. She had to turn down the offer because it was a *contravida* role, and she risked turning off her fans, who might not buy her albums. She also found out that Juday's fans might do the same to her for being nasty to their idol on TV.

That's how serious soap opera fans are. Look what happened to Princess Punzalan. Because of her realistic portrayal as the heartless tormentor of heroines, she has concentrated more on villainess roles, and succeeded. However, she does not have a musical career to protect, unlike Jessa.

Just imagine how Jessa's fans would react to her concert tonight, "Fabulous" at Hard Rock Cafe in Makati, if she were doing a *contravida* role. Some of them would probably not show up. But since she does not have a *contravida* image, Jessa expects a heavy turnout.

The singer promises a different Jessa because, for a change, she will be staying away from the usual sentimental OPM songs she's known for. She will be performing hits identified with artists like Shirley Bassey, Toni Braxton, Bonnie Tyler and Cher. She will also be doing a medley of her own hits.

This is the second time she's performing at HRC. The last time was when she launched her first album under Star Records, "Ibigay Mo Na." Next month, Jessa will be launching her second album under Star, and she's looking forward to that.

Big improvement

Jessa feels more confident than ever that she can deliver a good show. Before, she was criticized for being stiff when she performed. She says she has improved a lot after all the trials she's undergone. She is referring, of course, to the *intriga* involving her love life with Dingdong Avanzado. All that is behind her.

When we spoke to her at HRC, she was the picture of happiness, and was looking forward to her trip to California with Dingdong. This will be a real vacation because they are not performing in any concerts, just spending two weeks together and relaxing from the rigors of show business.

She tells us that they never went on a honeymoon after they got married in March last year. That's because Dingdong was involved in an electoral campaign. Hopefully, their vacation will produce their first-born, something they've been planning since they got hitched. That's how far ahead they plan!

Elvis Presley forever—and ever

From p. F1

Elvis' career and private life later took many less than admirable turns, but his diehard fans choose not to focus on them, and concentrate instead on his youthful ascendancy in the '50s.

Irony

The irony is, they themselves have aged, but their idol remains the same in their selective memory, and thus has attained a kind of immortality that they can't hope to share.

But that downbeat realization has eluded them. Instead, they choose to annually go ga-ga over his remembered sneer, vocal yowls, extravagant sideburns, and pneumatic pelvis thrusts and grinds.

Fans and tourists

Some impressive statistics: Everyday, 5,000 people troop to his home, Graceland, the second most-visited building in the United States, next only to the White House. Annually, all those fans and tourists bring in $250M worth of business to Memphis!

And Elvis may be dead and buried, but his old recordings, films, TV specials, and memorabilia are still making money for his estate—a *lot* of money: Last year, Elvis earned $37 M—as much as Jennifer Lopez—and *she's* still alive and kicking!

Other revelations

Other revelations about Elvis on US TV during the week of his 25th death anniversary:

He is regarded as the second most influential male singer in the history of American entertainment, next only to Frank Sinatra.

His wife Priscilla is one of the most beautiful movie stars. We can confirm this because we were able to interview her during the first Manila International Festival, and we were bowled over by her flashing eyes and perfect peaches-and-cream complexion.

Nasty rumor

Finally, a nasty rumor about Elvis' death has been shot down by Elvis' friends. The rumor had it that the rocker died on the toilet seat, reading a pornographic book.

Not true. Elvis did die while seated on the toilet, alright, and he *was* reading a book, but it wasn't a dirty tome. In fact, the book was about the Shroud of Turin! How *about* that?

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG 24 - AUG 30

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Smart Ka Na Ba? 7:30 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Mary d' Potter 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 To be Announced 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night *A Friend's Betrayal* 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	5:30 Dragon Ball Z 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Aliw Awards* 11:00 PGMA	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game2 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office	5:30 Bewitched 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Extreme Close Up *Bill Cosby* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile *Dick Van Dyke*
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	7:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *Fatherland*	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Practical Magic* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *The Juror* 11:00 Road Trip	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Travel Time 7:00 Exposed 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Street 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 Rank *Hollywood's Best Bodies* 9:00 Revealed W/ Jules Asner *Celine Dion* 10:00 Movies on E! *Wild in the Country*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	4:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Fashion TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 DAR 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Greatest Fights 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Celebrity Adventures 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On *West Indies*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 PBA Games 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Angel 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Tropical Pleasures*
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Andy Bais stars in homecoming revue

By Cecile Madroñal Genove

WHAT started out as ordinary, ribtickling fun among classmates who converged for a homecoming at Silliman University, Dumaguete City last year to celebrate their alma mater's centennial Founders Day has turned into a serious undertaking this year.

Highlights

One of the highlights of the 101st Founders Day of Silliman University this month is a musical-comedy revue titled "Andy, Who?" featuring alumnus Andy Bais, an actor and singer based in Manila, at 8 p.m. on Aug. 26 at the Claire Isabel McGill Luce Auditorium, Silliman University.

Sponsored by the Bachelor of Journalism Class '77, the Kapunungan sa mga Mass Communicators, and the School of Communication, the show is for the benefit of the Silliman University School of Communication Endowment Fund.

Students

With musical arrangements by Fred Ferraz and direction by Evelyn Rose R. Aldecoa, Bais will be ably supported by "a cast of thousands" composed of students of the School of Communication.

The rise to fame of the idealistic *probinsyano* may well be described as Dumaguete City and Negros Oriental's loss, but Metro Manila's gain.

"It was not smooth sailing right away. I did not even think of going into entertainment," shares Andy. He landed a job at the Population Center in Taguig, Metro Manila, where he wrote abstracts on technical research about population and development which would later be published in the agency's journal.

Innate talent

But his innate talent would resurface everytime a situation called for it, like during office programs and Christmas parties. As Andy reminisces, "My officemates, upon hearing me belt out some songs while we were working, would volunteer my services for other celebrations."

Eventually, he decided to resign from his job to be able to devote all of his time to his singing and acting career. His turning point came when he won the top prize in the prestigious annual Fe S. Panlilio Awards of the Organisasyon ng mga Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM).

Since then, Bais has re-invented himself and created a comic image that is all his own as a performer. Not that he had to make a big turnaround. "I am really at home with comedy. The *kenkoy* you see on stage is really who I am as a person," he shares.

Versatility

Truth to tell, his versatility as a performer is put to the test each time he is asked to portray serious roles, like in the long-running "Magnificat" and his latest venture, "Padre Pio."

Even in serious performances tackling sensitive issues like the political satire, "Huwag Pumayag sa Dagdag-Bawas," he punctuates his performance with punchlines that never fail to evoke hearty laughter from the audience.

He has also starred in a two-man show, "Beauty and the Best," with popular MTV veejay and commercial model Belinda Panelo. And he plays the comic sidekick of nymphet Diana Zubiri in the forthcoming movie, "Kasiping," produced by Robbie Tan's Seiko Films and directed by Augusto Salvador.

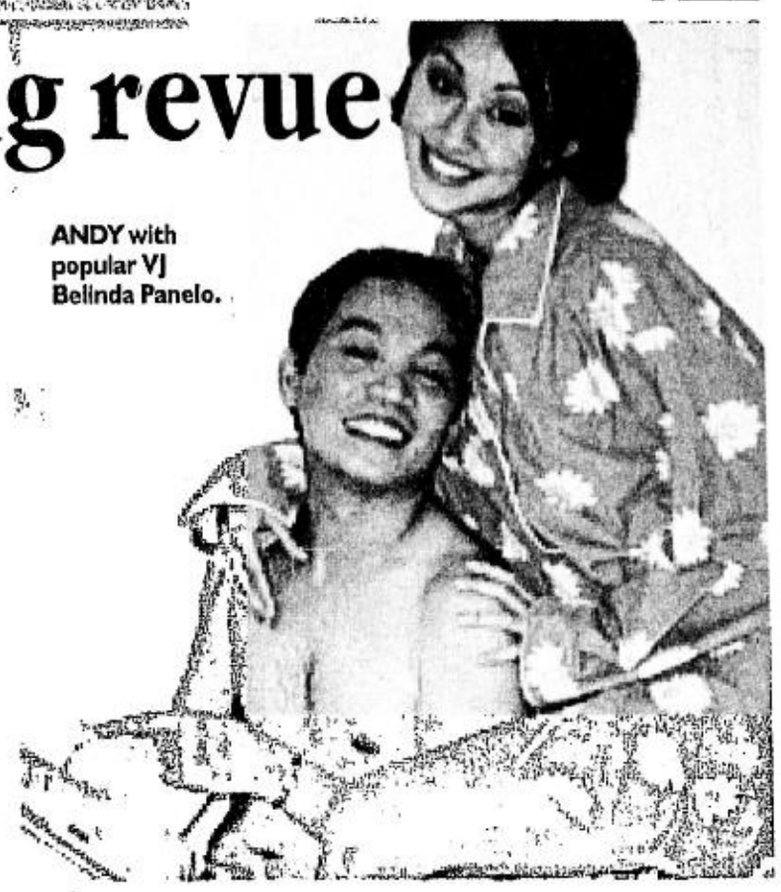
His turning point came when he won the top prize in the prestigious Fe S. Panlilio Awards of the Organisasyon ng mga Pilipinong Mang-aawit

Showmanship

His forthcoming concert at the Luce Auditorium is his first major performance in his hometown. Last year, he performed in the Miss Silliman Centennial Pageant at the Lamberto Macias Sports Complex where he literally brought the house down with his unique showmanship. He also did an upbeat number in the first-ever grand reunion of the School of Communication and was one of the guest performers in the "Paul and Junix" reunion concert at the Luce Auditorium.

Andy's concert

Among the sponsors of Andy's concert are Bethel Guest House, Silliman Press, Nerisse Bakeshoppe, Jollibee, SkyCable, DYGB-FM, Mozcom.com, Dyno Nobel Philippines, and Image Bank. Tickets are available at the School of Communication, Silliman University, and at the Luce Auditorium lobby before showtime on Aug. 26. Call Nora or Celia at (035) 422-6002 local 255 and 256.

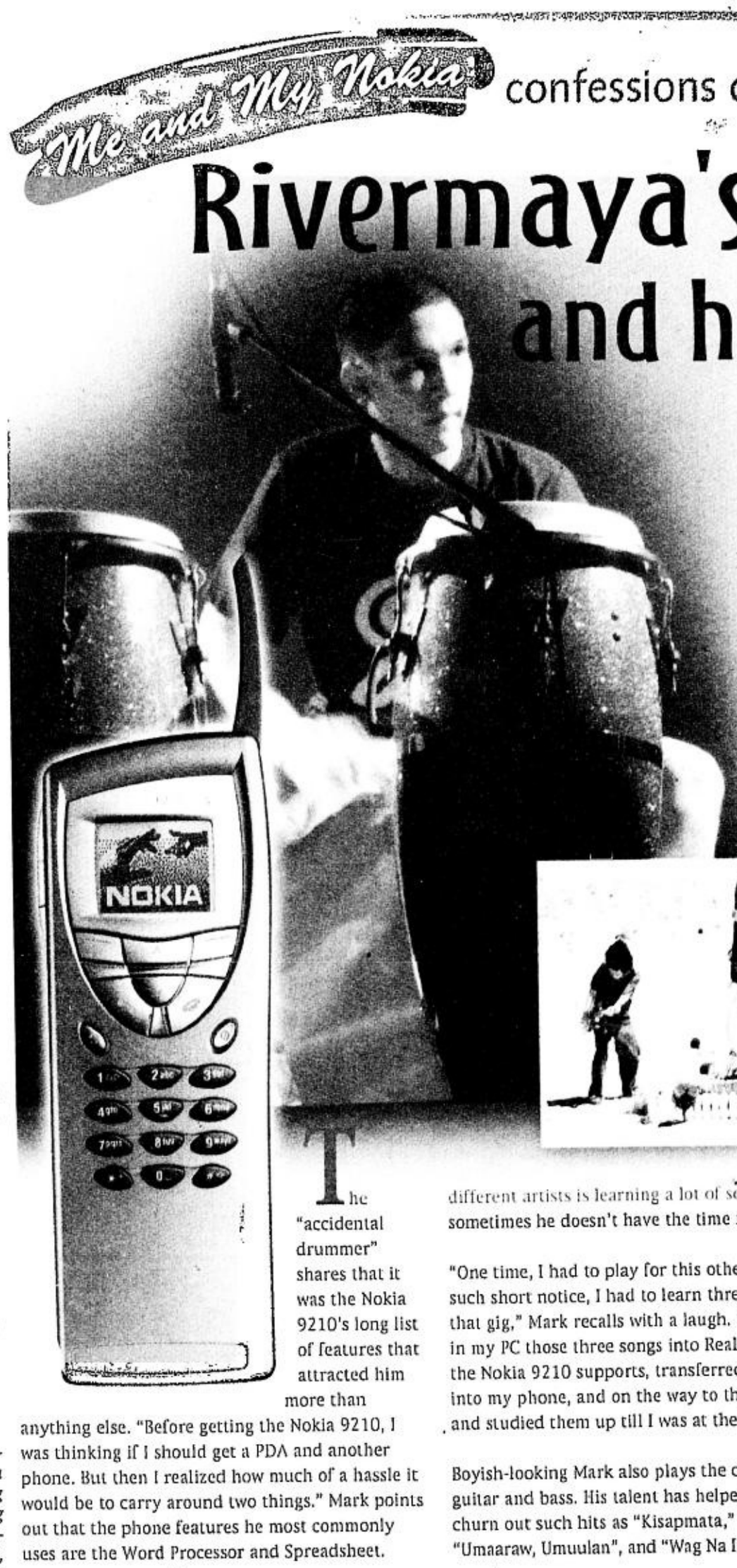


ANDY with popular VJ Belinda Panelo.

Me and My Nokia

confessions of a certified mobile user

Rivermaya's drummer and his NOKIA 9210



Twenty six year old drummer, graphic designer and entrepreneur Mark Escueta of popular rock band Rivermaya—with his long list of talents and interests—requires a lot from his phone. A phone that simply gives him the basics (making calls and sending SMS) just wouldn't be enough for this BS Business Administration, Major in Computer Applications graduate of De La Salle University - College of St. Benilde.

Rivermaya rocks

The "accidental drummer" shares that it was the Nokia 9210's long list of features that attracted him more than anything else. "Before getting the Nokia 9210, I was thinking if I should get a PDA and another phone. But then I realized how much of a hassle it would be to carry around two things." Mark points out that the phone features he most commonly uses are the Word Processor and Spreadsheet.

The techie musician

And as if being the drummer for one of the country's most popular bands doesn't keep him busy enough, Mark also plays for other artists like Cynthia Alexander, Mojofly, Slapshock and Velcro. However, the challenge in playing for different artists is learning a lot of songs that sometimes he doesn't have the time for.

"One time, I had to play for this other band on such short notice, I had to learn three songs for that gig," Mark recalls with a laugh. "I converted in my PC those three songs into Real Audio, which the Nokia 9210 supports, transferred the songs into my phone, and on the way to the gig, listened and studied them up till I was at the backstage."

Boyish-looking Mark also plays the congas, cajon, guitar and bass. His talent has helped Rivermaya churn out such hits as "Kisapmata," "Ilímala," "Umaaraw, Umuulan", and "Wag Na Init Ulo Baby."

Being computer savvy, Mark also designed the band's official website www.rivermaya.net. This interest in computers also allows Mark to persuade his friends to get a Nokia 9210. "I tell them it's not a big phone, it's a small computer," Mark said with a grin.

The multi-talented percussionist has also branched out into non-music related ventures. "I just started a lamp business with my friend called My Lamps." Mark also rents out the recording studio at his house for up and coming talents or seasoned music veterans.

Inspite of his multi-faceted interests, it is Mark's association with Rivermaya that stands out. Given this, he uses his Nokia 9210's extensive phonebook in inviting friends and fans to watch the band's shows.

And with Rivermaya bagging the Best Director, Best Group and Best Video awards at the recently held MTV Pilipinas 2002 for "Umuulan, Umaaraw"(from their latest studio effort "Tuloy ang Ligaya"), it looks like Mark is going to use his phone's group sending feature once more. This time, it will be to campaign for the Best South East Asian Video Award at the upcoming 2002 MTV Music Awards. Pinoy music lovers are undoubtedly hoping for another local talent to bring home the much coveted moon man.

With this young man's long list of accomplishments — musical or otherwise — it not only looks like he's getting a lot of work done, but is going places as well.

Viewers' take on local TV drama shows

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

MORE observations from viewers on some local drama series on the tube: *"Ayoko na paulit-ulit na yung mga kuwento nila. Laging tungkol sa pag-ibig na bigo,* etc. *Tapos yung mga* letter-senders, *di mo naman talaga siguradong totoo ba o* fictional *lang.* Feeling *ko, dinadagdagan. Di naman gano'n ka ma-drama ang buhay ng karaniwang tao.*

*"Tsaka, ang kunin naman sana nilang artista ay yung mga marunong talagang umarte, hindi yung mga pa-*cutie *lang. Ayoko na ngang manood minsan, kaso yun lang din naman ang palabas at wala namang* cable *sa* dorm."—*Jackie Gregorio, Quezon City*

Suffering

"What don't I like? A lot! I don't like it that they think drama is only about crying, pain and suffering, and people getting stepped on by other people, etc. *Hindi naman ganyan ang totoong* meaning *ng* drama.

"Nakaka-off ang mga guys na iyak nang iyak sa mga drama shows *minsan. Di ko naman sinasabi na* men don't cry, but in my experience *'di din naman sila gano'n kadalas umiyak, no?*

"At yang mga pinapadalang sulat sa 'Maalaala' *na mula daw sa* viewers, well, *gano'n na nga siguro, pero ang alam ko pinapaganda nila yun. Hindi naman kasi gano'n ka-*exciting *talaga ang buhay. Sa* TV *lang nangyayari yun.*

"Sometimes, you can see real talent in the shows, but not that often. There are no innovations in most drama shows. *Pare-pareho lang ang* stories *nila. Walang pagbabago sa mga dati pa nating pinapanood."—Ella Veracruz, Iligan City*

Robin Padilla and Jackie Woo topbill 'S.A.T.S.U.'

By Remy M. Umerez

ACTION star Robin Padilla once told us that he was not keen on appearing in another television show after his sitcom on Channel 2 was axed. He found the whole experience very taxing.

Action-comedy series

Then came an offer from Japanese action star Jackie Woo, who conceptualized an action-comedy series for Robin and himself for his own outfit, Forward Group.

It didn't take Robin a long to accept the project. He cites several reasons, foremost of which is the desire to extend a helping hand to Jackie.

The television series is titled "S.A.T.S.U.," which stands for Strategic and Tactical Surveillance Unit. It airs at 10 p.m. on Wednesdays (right after "The Weakest Link") on IBC-13.

Young cop

In the series directed by Al Tantay, Robin is a young cop anxious to prove himself worthy of the legacy left by his father, who was killed while on the job. He makes it a point to get himself assigned to the most dangerous cases.

No wonder he is so frustrated at being ordered to serve as guide and companion to a Japanese cop (Jacky), who will train local policemen in the use of modern surveillance equipment.

Jacky portrays the simple, quiet man who comes to the Philippines on a seemingly routine assignment, although the truth is he has something else in mind.

His sister was murdered in Japan by her Yakuza husband, who he believes is hiding and organizing a gang in the Philippines. He is reluctant to involve Robin in this quest but later finds the whole-hearted cooperation of the Filipino a big help in his search for justice for his sister.

WOO and Padilla have good comic chemistry together.

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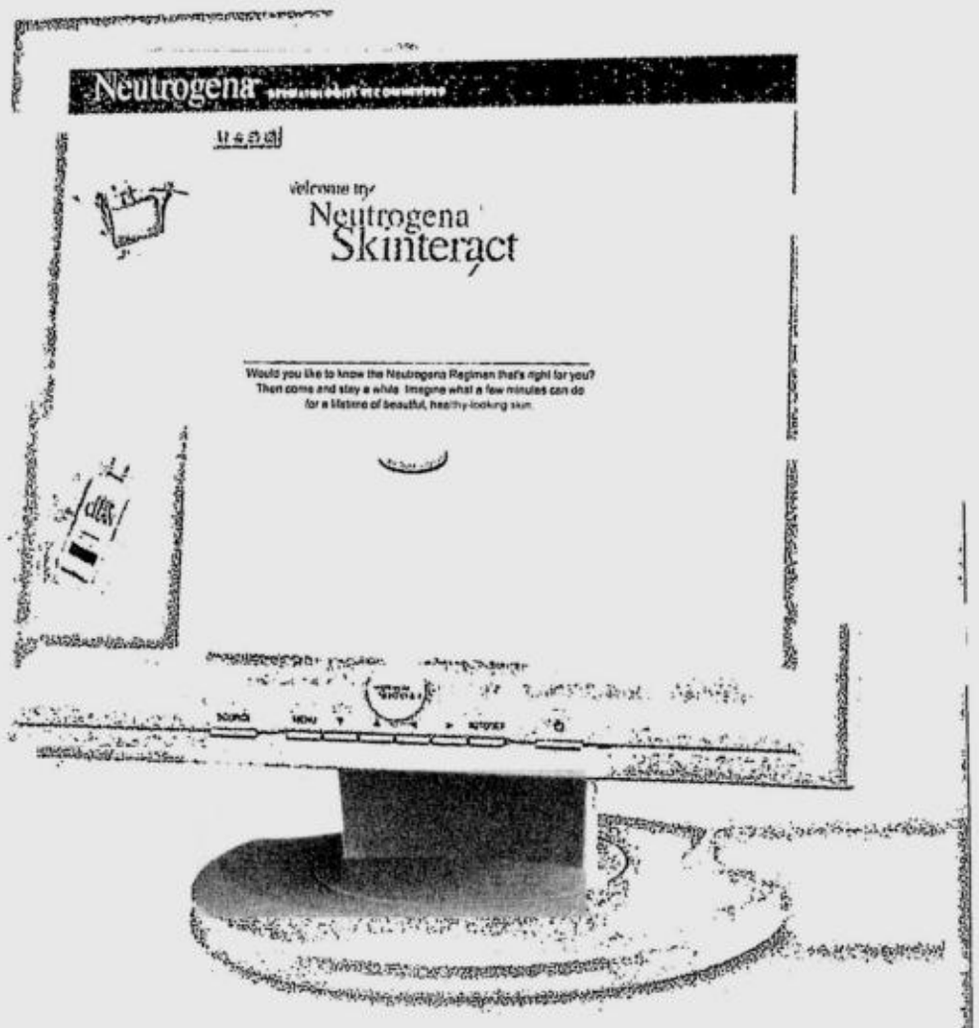

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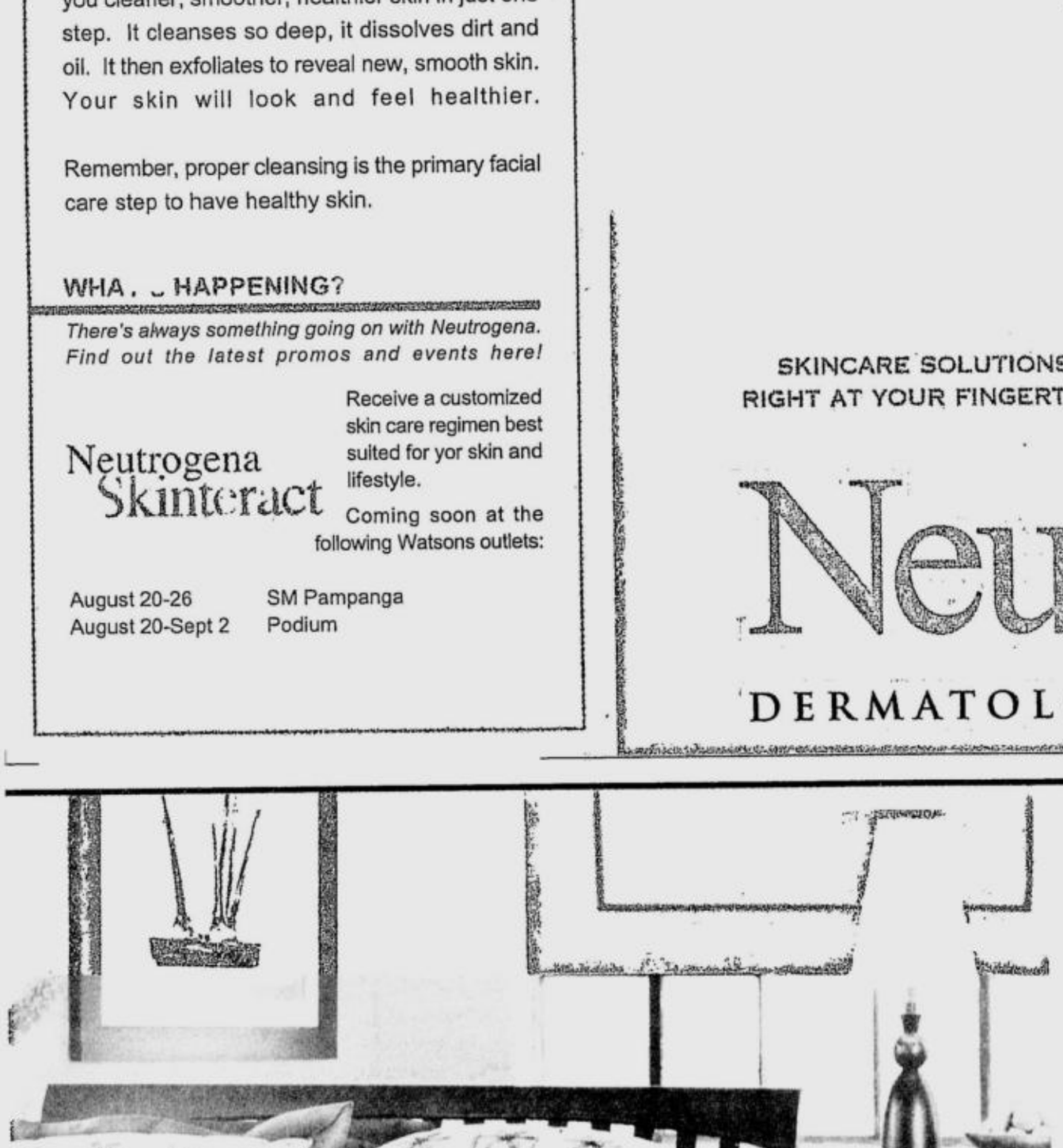

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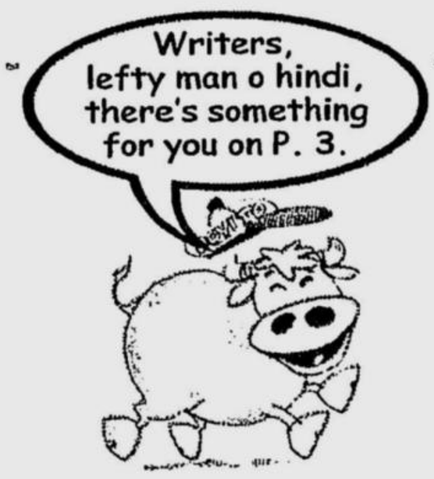

Junior INQUIRER

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VILMA Santos

JULIA Roberts

JOSEPH Estrada

HTTP://YOU.INO7.NET/II

PAENG Nepomuceno

I'M A LEFTY, THAT'S RIGHT!

Being left-handed ain't so bad, especially when you're in good company

By Mae Astrid Tobias

CAN you figure out what Kermit the Frog of the Muppets, Bart Simpson of "The Simpsons," and Chewbacca the Wookie of "Star Wars" have in common? They're all lefties.

That's right. If you are left-handed, then you know how it feels always getting your writing hand smudged by ink. And you would rather eat with the spoon using your left hand even if mom says it's bad table manners. Sometimes, you feel left out (no pun intended) because no one understands how difficult it is to write on the desk.

Celebrate your being different because the whole world has just celebrated the International Left-Handed Club last August 13. It started way back 1992 so that people can know how good or how bad being left-handed can be.

In the United Kingdom, left-handed painting workshops were organized as well as a special sale of products for left-handed people. Lefties in San Francisco, USA, had a baseball throwing contest on the field prior to the game. Whoever threw the ball farthest got to throw the game's ceremonial first pitch. Even countries like Turkey, Croatia and India have their ways of enjoying this special day.

I guess you're wondering why some people are left-handed and why some are right-handed. A number of explanations have been put forward. But the most common one says the difference has something to do with the way our brain works. You see, our brains are "cross-wired." The left side of the brain actually controls the right side of the body and the other way around. Hand dominance is connected with brain dominance on the opposite side.

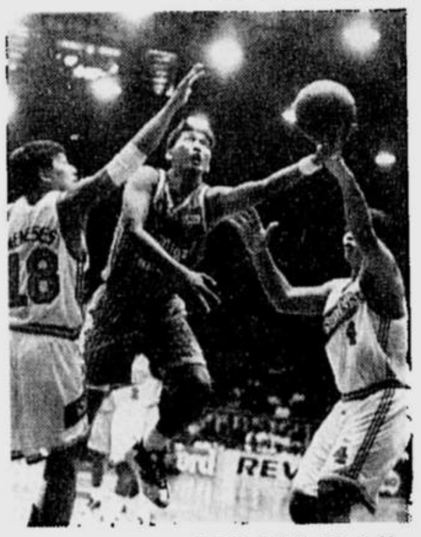
The left side (RIGHT HAND CONTROL) takes charge of our speech, language, writing, logic, mathematics, and science. The right side (LEFT HAND CONTROL) has to do with music, art, creativity, perception, and emotions. Because the right side of the brain controls most of the creative stuff we do, lefties tend to be creative geniuses. In fact, there are higher percentages of left-handers than normal in certain jobs and professions—music and the arts, media in general.

Sometimes, lefties are seen as clumsy and awkward. They aren't. But sometimes, they find it difficult to use tools and equipment designed for right-handed people. Scissors and can openers for example. Have you ever noticed how the mouse of the computer is usually placed on the right side of the table? Or how lefties tend to bump elbows with right-handed people when eating side by side?

As our tribute to all left-handed kids out there, we've collected some fascinating facts about left-handed

I'm a Lefty/ p. 12

BILL Clinton



ALLAN Caidic

World Scope

Megafauna Find!

FOSSILS of nine-foot kangaroos, wombats the size of a small pony and giant marsupial lions were just some of the megafauna unearthed by scientists led by paleontologist John Long. Caves discovered beneath the Nullarbor Plain yielded bones such as this jaw from a giant marsupial lion or *thylacoleo carnifex*. ***AFP***

Kite in Flight

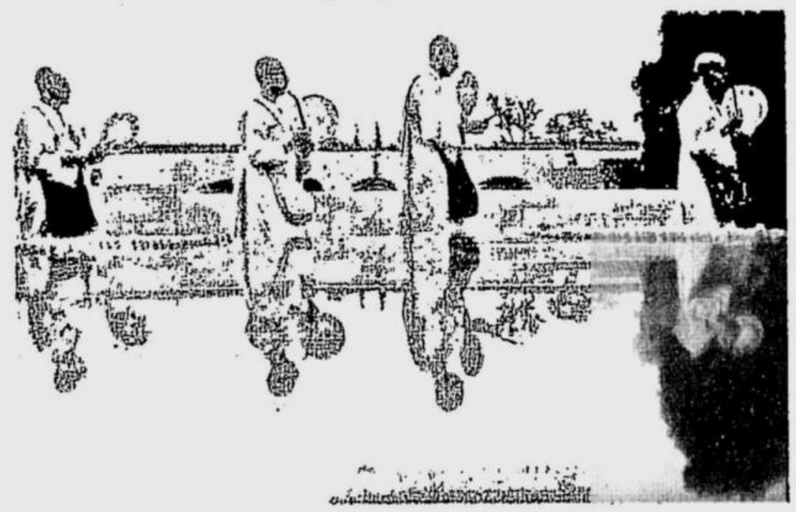
INDONESIAN national costumes all in a row! This man is enjoying one of Indonesia's favorite pastimes at Ancol beach in North Jakarta. ***Reuters***

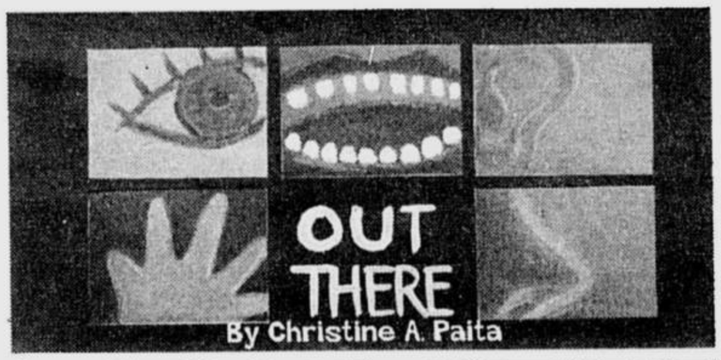
Piikani Dance

DAKOTA Mountain Horse, 6, dances during an intertribal dance at the 44th Annual Piikani Celebration in Brocket, Alberta. ***AP***

Prayer for Peace

BUDDHIST monks pray at Gandhi Samadhi, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi, in New Delhi, India, before leaving for a 3-month Peace March across India and Pakistan. The march was scheduled to start from Taxila, Pakistan, on Aug. 6 to coincide with the anniversary of the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima. ***AP***





Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshops

POSITIVISM ART. Those who are interested to learn the basics of drawing and painting with focus on positive subjects can join E.R. Tagle's Positivism art workshop. Those 3 years old and above with an enthusiasm to develop their skill in the visual art are qualified to enroll with P3,500 tuition fee inclusive of art materials. The two-hour once-a-week workshop will be held at the Enterprise Plaza, 1429 Pablo Ocampo St., formerly Vito Cruz Extension, Brgy. San Antonio Village, Makati City. For inquiries, please call Delia at 816-0904, 899-6358 or 0917-9726223.

WRITING FOR CHILDREN. The UP Creative Writing Center and Adarna House announce the call for applications to the Barlaya Writing for Children Workshop to be held from Oct. 10-12, 2002 at the University of the Philippines-Diliman, Quezon City and Adarna House. Interested applicants must submit 3 copies of their unpublished children's stories, written in English or Filipino, and a short resume and send them to Adarna House, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of entries is on Sept. 13. For more info, please call Allan Popa at 372-3548 to 49.

Contests

PBBY. Calling all writers, the Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting entries for the 2003 PBBY-Salanga Writers' Prize. Entries may be in Filipino or English, and must be typewritten double-spaced on short bond paper. Those interested may submit more than one entry and send to the PBBY Secretariat, c/o Adarna House, Inc., 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of entries is on Nov. 5, 2002. For more info, please contact PBBY at tel nos. 372-3548 or 49 or fax no. 372,4204, or send email to pbby@adarna.com.ph.

CHRISTMAS CARD. It's never too early to celebrate Christmas! Sacred Heart School invites kids ages 3-12 to join its On-the-spot Christmas Card Drawing Contest. The contest will be held on Sept. 28, from 1-3 p.m., at the San Lorenzo Village covered court, #19 San Lorenzo Drive, San Lorenzo Village, Makati. For information and registration, please call SHS in any of the following branches: Malabon, 447-3371; San Lorenzo, Makati City 815-3058; Shangri-La Edsa, Mandaluyong City 636-1227; Forbes Park, Makati City, 840-5493; Caloocan, 334-1721, Glorietta 3, Makati City 893-9079, and Sun Valley, Parañaque, 776-0312.

Events

FILMSHOWING. Watch your favorite Adarna book characters come to life in Adarna House's "Mga Kuwentong Pambata: Adarna Animation" at Museo Pambata. This film event, in celebration of Linggo ng Wika, will be held on Aug. 24 and 31, Saturdays; screening time will be 3 and 4 p.m. for Aug. 24 and 2 and 4 p.m. for Aug. 31.

NBS SALE. National Book Store's Cut Price Sale is back! Get as much as 70% off on all books and selected school and office supplies from Aug. 14 to Sept. 15. Discounted titles for kids include the Harry Potter sticker books, Disney and Rugrats storybooks, and the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys series. Buyers also get a free carry-all foldable bag for every P1,000 worth of purchase. Visit any National Book Store branch for inquiries.

NESTLE TOUR. Join Chuckie, Nestle Chocolate Milk Drink's mascot, as he tours schools and malls in the country in the Nestle Chocolate Milk Drink school and mall tour. Don't miss the Chuckie Cheer Pep Squad and the Nestle Chocolate Mural Mania. There will be exciting games, dance numbers, celebrity guests and continuous sampling of Nestle Chocolate Milk Drink! The tour in Manila will culminate in a grand mall activity on Sept. 8 at Robinsons Galleria. Catch the Nestle Chocolate Milk Drink school and mall tours in the following places: Baguio City, Aug. 26-31; Cebu, Sept. 4-14; and Davao, Sept. 19-28.

STAR MALL. In celebration of Buwan ng Wika, Starland at Metropolis Star Mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa brings you "Paligsahan sa Tula," an inter-school oratorical contest. Listen to young orators and learn more about our language and culture. The "Future Voice of the Philippines" singing contest is also held every Sunday at the Star Mall food court on the 2nd level. The contest is open to students ages 7-12. For details on mall activities, please contact Lilit Tabuzo at 724-4992 (Star Mall) or Edit Dolon at 850-4283 (Metropolis Star).

Books

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH. Dick King-Smith, author of well-loved children's books such as "Babe, the Gallant Pig" and "Harriet's Hare," is National Book Store's author of the month. King-Smith grew up in England surrounded by pet animals. He was voted Children's Author of the Year at the 1992 British Book Awards and has written more than 100 books. Don't miss his other well-loved stories— "A Mouse Called Wolf," "The Stray," and Martin's Mice."

Cable Pick

DESERT WANDERERS. Learn about how the wild asses of India survive in the Little Rann of Kutch, from roaming the hot and barren desert to finding shelter when the Arabian Sea washes inland. Watch how these wild horses bear extreme heat and escape the floods in "Horses: Wild Asses (Riders of the Storm," on Saturday, Aug. 24 at 8 p.m. on National Geographic Channel. Still on NGC, journey with wild camels in the Gobi desert in "Legends of the Gobi" on Monday, Aug. 26, at 8 p.m.

Atbp.

COMIC BOOK. The second issue of "W.I.T.C.H." is out! Will, Irma, Taranee, Cornelia, and Hay Lin face new adventures and discover more about their powers. Check your magazine shops and bookstores. For subscription inquiries, please call 635-9728 for Metro Manila and (032) 412-5566 to 67/ (082) 221-6226 to 67 for Visayas and Mindanao.

Join the 9th RCBC

Kuwentong Kalikasan
Katha Ng Kabundukan

Nationwide Short Story Writing Contest on Environmental Preservation

- Open to all grade school students nationwide
- Students must submit a short story, either in English or in Filipino, on caring for the environment
- Fill out the official entry form available at your principal's office and in all RCBC Business Centers and Department of Education offices
- Deadline for submission of entries is November 25, 2002
- Previous grand prize winners are no longer qualified to join
- Full contest mechanics are printed in the entry form

Students, write a short story on Mother Earth and win the following prizes: P30,000, a trophy and a scholarship package worth P25,000 from Pacific Plans, Inc. & Grepalife. The winning stories will also be published in the next RCBC Nature Stories Book. Your school will also receive P20,000 while your English or Filipino teacher will receive P5,000.

For more information, contact:

RCBC Corporate Communications Department

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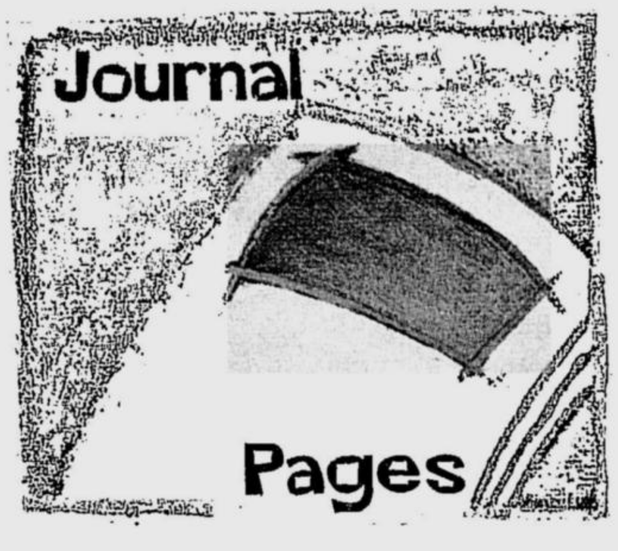


Most Precious Thing on Earth

By Karen A. Briones
St. James College, Quezon City

I SURE am lucky to have my parents beside me knowing that whenever I call for them, they will always be there supporting me. Thanks to my parents, I have great clothes, nice shoes and a hefty weekly allowance.

But my parents still make it a point to remind me that I cannot always have anything I want. They tell me that everything in life is uncertain and I should always be ready for whatever might happen.

My mother, the beauty of our house, is somewhat strict. But she has this *lambing* wherein she keeps telling me "*Mag-ingat parati, ha*?" and "I love you, baby" with matching hugs and kisses *pa*. She's really sweet and, sometimes, she makes *tampo* because I take her for granted, knowing that I am her only daughter.

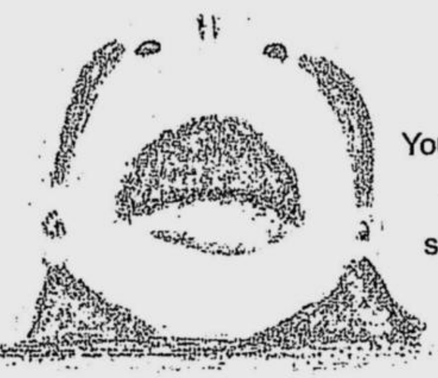
I could say that my father is my best buddy. A comrade and a sidekick. He is my *kakampi* when I do something wrong, especially when my mom loses her temper, hehe.

One thing I bet they never think that I actually do, in spite of my *kakulitan*, is that every night before I go to sleep, I always thank God how special and lucky I am for having parents like my own. I just realized lately that no one could ever take the place of my parents. And only God knows how thankful I am for having my mother and father, loving me and supporting me unconditionally.

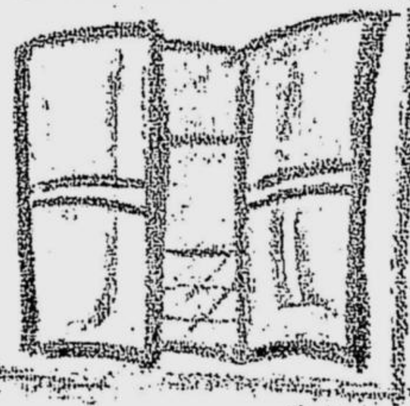
Sound Familiar?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight From JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Mean Big Sisters

DEAR JI,

I just want to share something. Why do my big sisters gang up on me? I try to be good to them but they always tell our mom that I'm the one who does the bad things. So instead of being honest, they lie. I don't like people lying! So when they do that, I just lock myself in my room so I won't hear anything from them.—**IRENE JOY CONCEPCION**, 12, Pilar Village, Las Piñas City

Dear Irene Joy,

*Sometimes, big sister—or big brothers—can be nasty even though they don't mean to. Be nice even when they tease you. They're certain to change their ways.—**Editor***

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Kuwento ni Jose Cecilio U. Pascual
Guhit ni Christine Sipin

SABADO. Walang pasok ngunit pupunta ako sa eskwelahan. Mayroong pagsasanay ang choir. Dalawang araw na lamang at gabi na ng aming palabas.

Masaya sa Music Room. Dito, nagkikita kami ng mga matatalik kong kaibigan—si Gian at si Mark. Nagkakaroon kami ng panahon upang maglaro at magkuwentuhan.

Pagpasok sa Music Room, agad akong pumunta sa aking pwesto at hindi nagpahalata na kararating lang.

"Buti na lang umabot ka. Ala pa nga si Mark, e, " bulong ni Gian.

"Oo nga," sagot ko habang hinihingal.

Ilang saglit lang ay dumating si Mark na tila di pa naliligo at inaantok pa. Hindi nagtagal, inumpisahan na ang vocalization, isang paghahanda sa aming mga boses para sa pagsasanay - "Mi-i-i-i-o-o-o-o-o-o..."

MAHIRAP mahuli sa pagsasanay lalo na ngayon at huling dress rehearsal na namin. Siguradong kagagalitan ni Bb. Reyes ang mga hindi dumarating sa takdang oras.

Pagkatapos ng vocalization, binigay ni Bb. Reyes ang mga gagawin para sa araw na iyon.

"Makinig. Sa umagang ito, tuluy-tuloy nating gagawin ang buong program. Kailangan nating matapos ito bago magtanghalian," sabi ni Bb. Reyes habang nakikinig ang lahat. "Pagkatapos kumain, magpalit kayo sa inyong mga costumes. Maliwanag?" tanong ng guro.

"Yes, Ma'am," sagot ng lahat.

"And before I forget...no playing during lunch time. Para hindi kayo mapagod pati na rin ang mga boses ninyo. At ayokong mag-amoy araw ang Music Room. Is it clear?" tanong niya muli.

Nagtinginan kaming tatlo at napangiti sa sinabi ng guro.

"Yes, Ma'am," sagot naming tatlo sabay ng iba.

MAAYOS naman ang takbo ng aming pagsasanay nang umagang iyon. Ngunit ilan sa aming mga kasama ay hindi nakikisama sa kanilang boses—sintunado. Mabuti't hinabaan ni Bb. Reyes ang kanyang pasensya at sinabihan na lamang sila na hinaan na lang ang kanilang pagkanta.

Tanghalian na. Agad kaming tumakbo sa cafeteria upang kumain.

Sa kalagitnaan ng aming pagkain, nagyaya si Mark na maglaro ng habulan.

"Monkey bars tayo sa Grade I," yaya ni Mark. Solong-solo natin ang playground," dagdag niya.

Nagtinginan kami ni Gian.

"E papaano kung...?" alala ko.

"Sandali lang naman. `Wag lang tayong sumigaw at magpupunás naman tayo ng pawis pagkatapos," ani ni Mark.

"Sige, masarap maglaro doon ngayon," sangayon ni Gian.

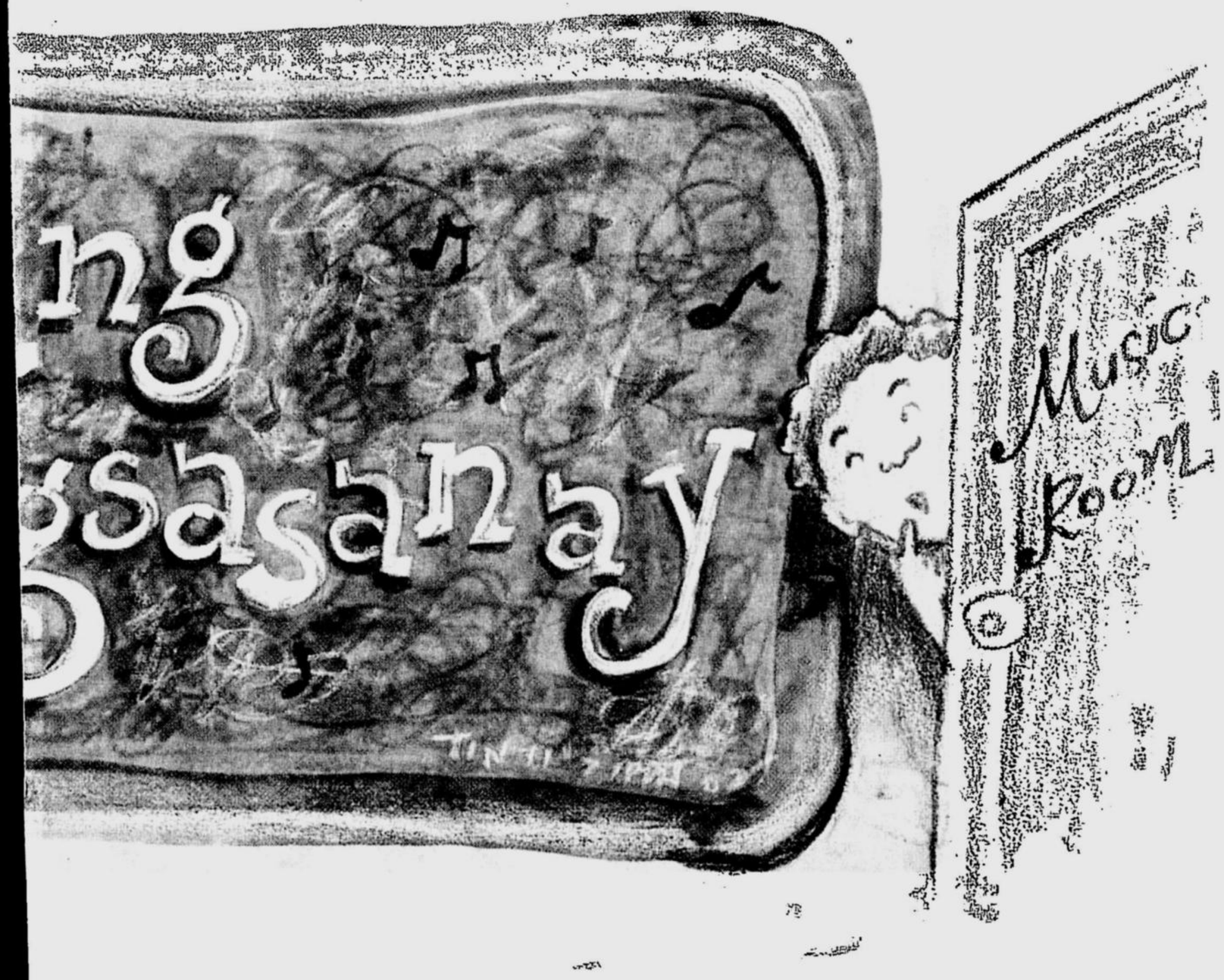
"O...sige. Basta sandali lang," sagot ko.

Binilisan namin ang pagkain. Hindi pa 'ata naubos ang aming kinain ay tumungo na kami sa palaruan. Nanggigil kami sa tuwa nang nagpunta kami roon.

Bigla-biglang nagbanta si Mark, "Ang mahuli...tay-aa-a!!!" Kumaripas kaming tatlo sa pagtakbo.

Nahuli si Gian kung kaya't nagpaikut-ikot at lumusut-lusot siya sa mga bakal upang habulin kami. Magkahalong takot at tuwa namin ni Mark habang kami'y hinahabol. Labis ang pagpigil namin sa pagsigaw. Ang saya-saya.

Minsan ako naging taya pero madalas



naman si Gian. Sadyang mabilis sa pagbaras si Mark. Ubod ng bilis niya na tila may lahing unggoy. Damang-dama naming tatlo ang pag-angkin sa playground nang mga sandaling iyon.

Nang maramdaman kong sumasakit na ang aking mga kamay sa kabibitin sa mga bakal, nakita ko ang aking relo at naalala ko ang oras.

"TIME naaaaaaa!" sigaw ko.

Bumaba kami agad sa monkey bars at tumakbo sa Music Room. Agad naming kinuha ang aming mga bag para magpalit. Pagdating doon, nakita namin na bihis na ang iba. Lalo naming binilisan ang aming pagkilos. Lumabas kaming muli sa Music Room at pumuntang banyo para maghilamos, magpunas, at magpalit.

Hindi kami nag-uusap sa taranta. Kanya-kanya kaming galaw hanggang natapos ang aming pagbihis.

"No playing during lunch time...ayokong mag-amoy araw ang Music Room. Is it clear?" tanong muli ni Bb.Reyes. Nagtinginan kaming tatlo at napangiti sa sinabi ng guro."

Tuloy ang pagtulo ng aming mga pawis.

Pag-akyat namin sa Music Room, nakahinga kami nang maluwag dahil wala pa si Bb. Reyes. Patuloy kaming nagpupunas ng aming mga pawis habang pinagtitinginan kami ng aming mga kasama. Halatang kaming tatlo lamang ang naglaro. Mabuti na lang at malamig sa Music Room kaya nakaginhawa rin kahit na papaano.

Dumating si Bb. Reyes.

Tiningnan niya kami isa-isa mula ulo hanggang paa. Tiniyak niyang maayos ang aming kasuotan. Natatakot ako dahil nilapitan ako ni Bb. Reyes upang ayusin ang aking kwelyo. Halos di ako humihinga habang nasa harapan ko siya.

"Ang tagal naman niya akong ayusin," sabi ko sa aking sarili. Bumibilis ang kabog ng aking dibdib sa takot. Tila walang katapusan ang pag-ayos ni Bb. Reyes sa aking kwelyo.

Tiningnan niya kaming tatlo. Tila hindi namin natago ang amoy ng araw.

"Kayong tatlo, doon muna tayo sa labas," utos ni Bb. Reyes.

Hindi na kami nagsalita at sinundan namin ang guro habang nagtulungan ang iba.

"NAGLARO ba kayo o hindi?!?" agad na tanong ni Bb. Reyes.

Hindi kami naka-imik.

"Sagot!" sigaw ng guro.

"Opo," sagot ko.

"Hindi kayo nakakaintindi. We are two days away from the performance night and you're giving me problems! I might pull the three of you out of the concert," banta ni Bb. Reyes.

"Ma'am, please don't," sabi ni Gian. "Gusto po akong panoorin ng Mama at Papa ko."

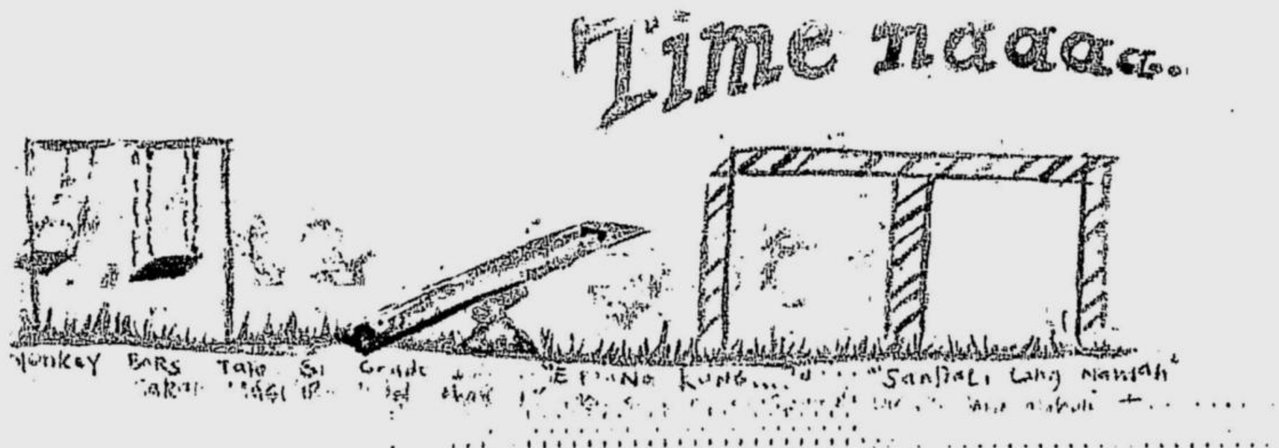
"Sorry na po," patawad namin.

"Ayusin ninyo ang sarili ninyo bago kayo pumasok sa Music Room," huling sinabi ng guro.

Iyon na lamang ang aming narinig mula sa aming guro at pinagpatuloy na namin ang pagsasanay. Nanahimik na lamang kaming tatlo at sinunod lahat ng sinabi ng aming guro.

Si J.C. ay isang guro sa Ateneo de Manila Grade School.

Si ***Christine*** *ay miyembro ng Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*



Fire in the Water

This kid sizzles the moment he dives in the pool

By Margaux C. Ortiz

HAVE you ever wondered how some people fit their names? A seven-year-old boy named Alab certainly does. Alab is the Filipino word for fire and passion, and in the past year the kid swimmer has been reaping medals and awards for his extraordinary abilities in swimming.

"I started swimming when I was two," says the first grade student from Ateneo Grade School. "My sisters were into it so I got interested."

Truth is, Alab has had this unexplained affinity to water for as long as he can remember. Even before he learned to swim, the boy loved splashing in puddles, even in mud. He has always loved the rain and played in small pools formed on the ground after a downpour.

"I love water so much that I spend an hour in the bathroom taking a bath," laughs Alab, who, at his very young age, is part of both the Ateneo Grade School Varsity Swimming Team and the Quezon City Sports Club Hammerheads. "I could stay in the shower forever even if I already spent three hours in the swimming pool before that."

A Great Athlete in the Making

And the water seems to eagerly return his love. The first time he competed in the novice (beginner's) division, he was immediately recognized as the most outstanding swimmer because of his agility and speed.

"I've been competing in the advanced category for only a year now," says the seven-year-old athlete. Yet he has won for himself more than 50 medals and four trophies!

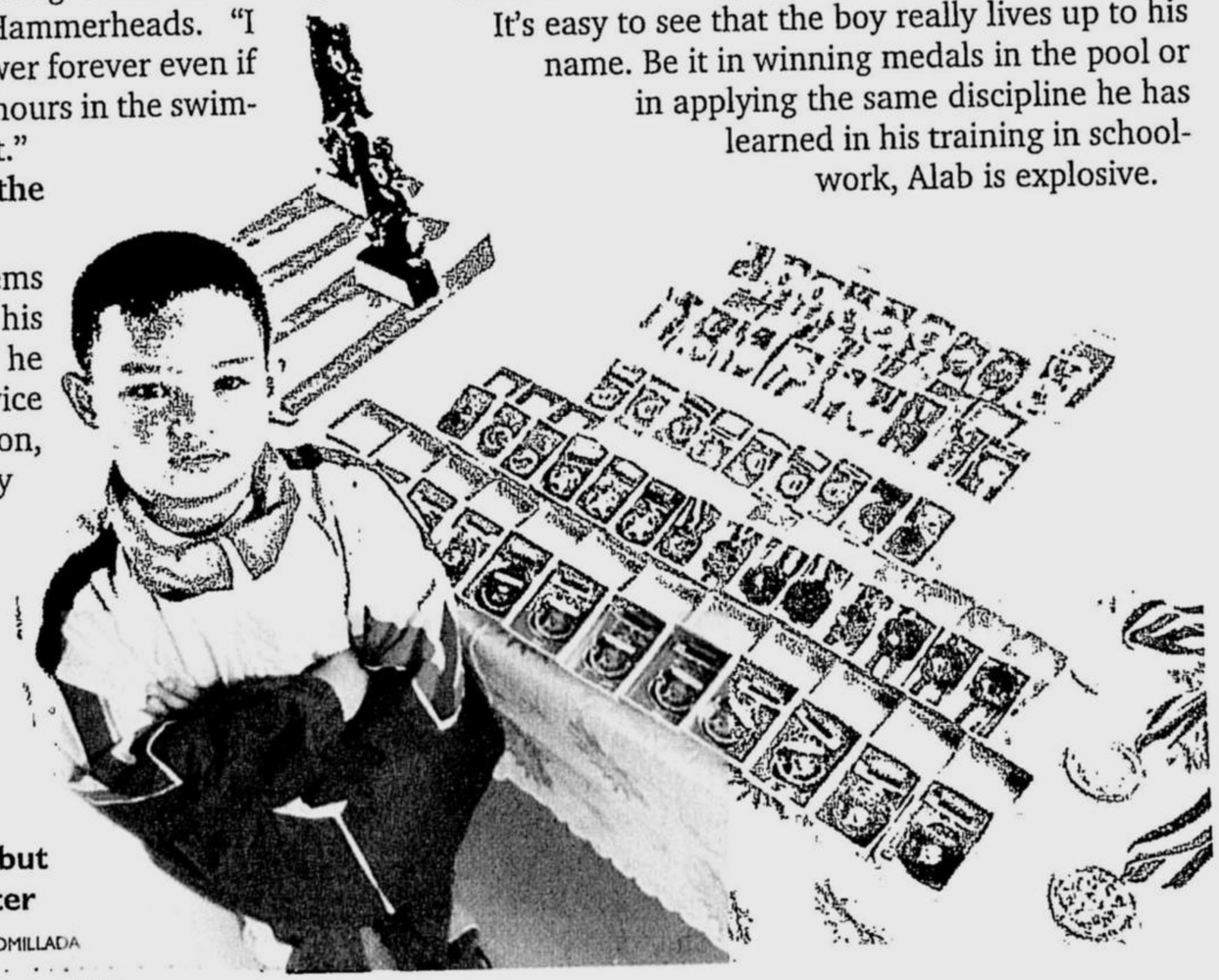
Alab points to a favorite trophy and says that it was his award for being the most outstanding swimmer in a recent competition where he bested swimmers 10 years older than him.

Extraordinary Alab

"My favorite stroke is the butterfly," shares Alab. The interesting thing is Alab's record time in the butterfly and freestyle events are almost the same, when it is widely recognized that the butterfly requires the most effort among the strokes. "When I dive into the pool, I instinctively use the butterfly to swim."

In spite of all his achievements, the kid athlete admits he still has a lot to learn. "There's so much room to improve on," Alab humbly says. "I still have to work on my speed."

It's easy to see that the boy really lives up to his name. Be it in winning medals in the pool or in applying the same discipline he has learned in his training in schoolwork, Alab is explosive.



AQUA BOY. Alab doesn't talk to fish but he takes to the water like one. ROMY HOMILLADA

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids 'r' rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at _____

and studies at _____

Her/his contact number is:

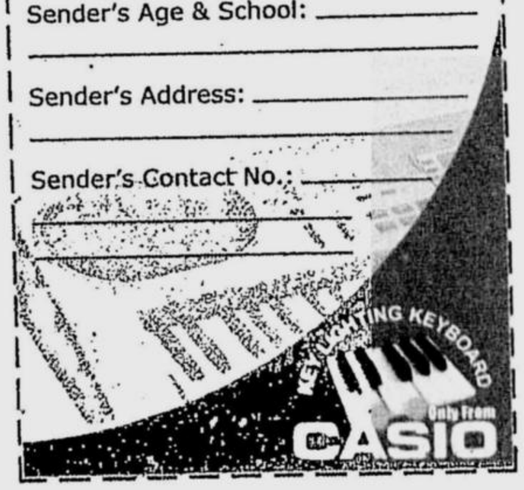
_____

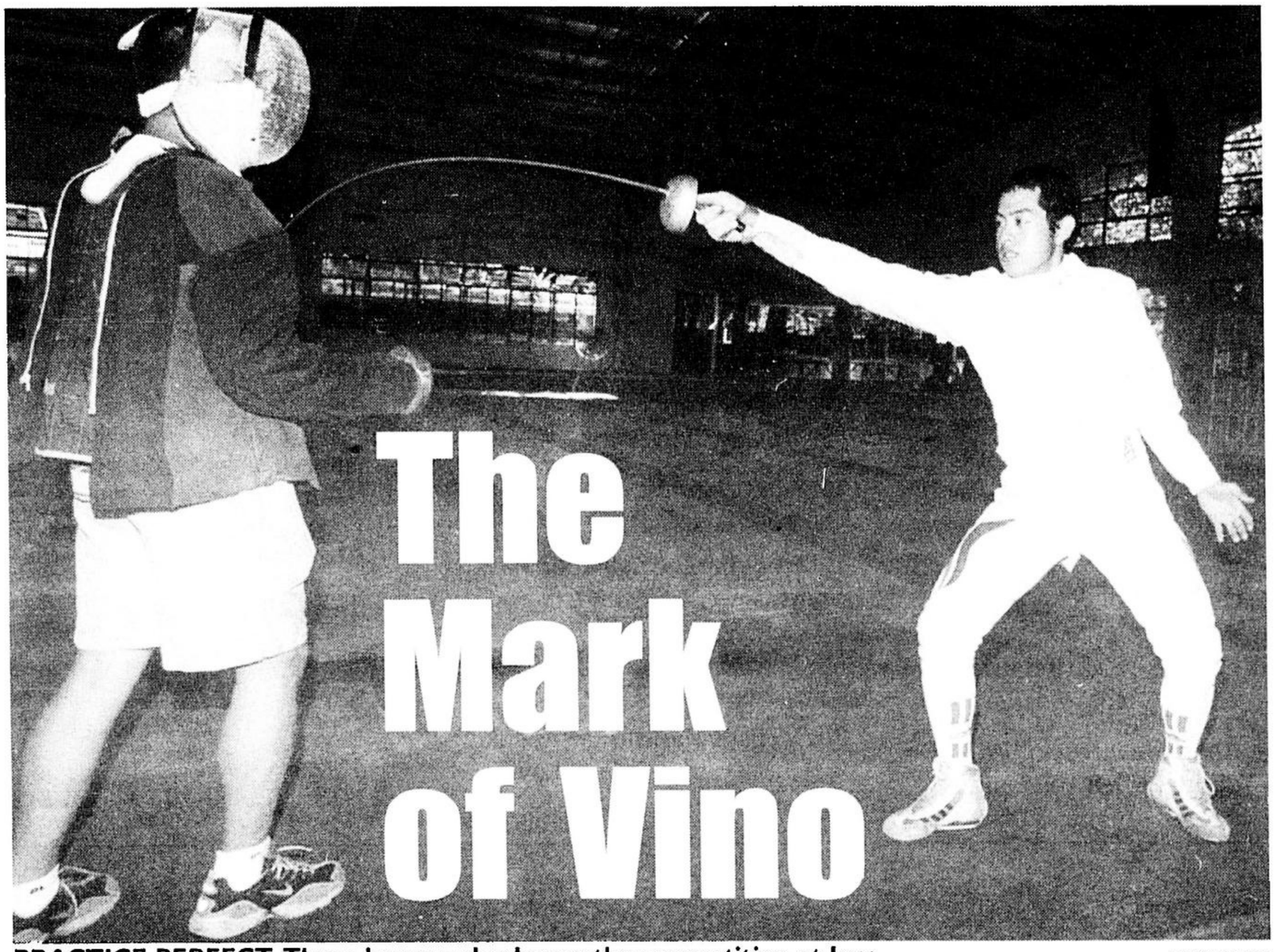
Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Age & School: _____

Sender's Address: _____

Sender's Contact No.: _____





The Mark of Vino

PRACTICE PERFECT. Three hours a day keeps the competition at bay. ROGER CARPIO

He used to watch Zorro on TV, now he could probably beat the masked swordsman

By Margaux C. Ortiz

WHEN 20-year-old Avelino Victorino Jr. was a kid, he loved watching the masked hero Zorro on television. He was fascinated with the fancy swordfights and complicated action scenes he saw.

"After watching Zorro, my friends and I would get our broomstick 'swords' and imitate our favorite character's moves," grins Vino, a 5th year BS Banking and Finance student from Far Eastern University. "I've always admired the agility and grace Zorro executed whenever he faced his adversaries."

Little did Vino know that his childhood fantasy would one day come true.

"I was 15 when I started fencing," shares Vino. He tried out for the sport without any prior experience, armed only with his interest and willingness to learn.

After six months of training, Vino got into the Philippine Team. "Though I started with zero knowledge about fencing, it was my persistence and hard work that helped me achieve my goal."

The 20-year-old trains for three difficult hours on weekday nights. "Then of course, I have to attend classes and study during daytime," says Vino.

Proud Athlete

But his sacrifices always pay off. Vino has brought pride and honor to the country by winning gold and silver medals in a number of international competitions like the Asian Juniors Fencing Championship and the Southeast Asian Fencing Championship.

"And after three years of trying, I've finally succeeded in becoming the reigning champion of the much-coveted Dayrit's Cup," he adds proudly. The Dayrit's Cup is a prestigious fencing competition in the Philippines.

Vino still loves watching swordfights on television and in movies. He has learned the difference between cinematic and competition fencing, though.

"Cinematic fencing relies on a scripted, step-by-step movement," the athlete explains. "Competition fencing needs an automatic and quick reaction to your opponent's moves."

Fencing, adds Vino, is similar to a chess game. "You have to possess this 'psychic ability' to predict your challenger's next strike," he emphasizes.

To kids who would like to give fencing a try, Vino has one advice. "If you like a particular sport like fencing, then do try out and don't forget to give it your best shot," he shares.

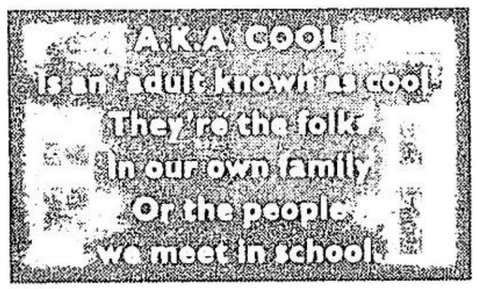
Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*



I nominate _____.
He/She is _____ years old and is my _____.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)_____;
2)_____;
3)_____;
4)_____;
5)_____;

My nominee lives a_____
_____.
Give him/her a call at _____
or send him/her an e-mail at _____
_____.
By the way, I'm _____
_____.
I'm_____ years old.
My address is_____
_____.
You may call me at_____
_____.

LOVE SONGS

"WHAT the world needs now is love sweet love / It's the only thing that there's just too little of...," goes the song. Well, the 21 famous songs below aren't lacking in "love," but they do all lack a word to complete their titles. Can you help? We've put in the artist/s of each song to guide you as you sing along.

1. Backstreet Boys: "As ____ as You Love Me"
2. Michael Jackson: "I Just Can't ____ Loving You"
3. Madonna: "___ Must Love Me"
4. Beatles: "Can't ___ Me Love"
5. Nonoy Zuniga: "Love Without ____"
6. Elton John: "Can You Feel The Love _____"
7. Elvis Presley: "Can't ____ Falling In Love With You"
8. Eagles: "____ of My Love"
9. Sharon Cuneta: "____ I Love You"
10. Captain and Tenille: "Love Will ____ Us Together"
11. Dionne Warwick: "What Do You ___ When You Fall In Love"
12. Tina Turner: "What's Love ___ To Do With It"
13. Carole King: "Will You Still Love Me _____"
14. Kuh Ledesma: "I _____ I'm in Love"
15. Righteous Brothers: "You've Lost That Lovin' _____"
16. Stevie Wonder: "I Just _____ To Say I Love You"
17. Matt Monro: "From _____ With Love"
18. Bee Gees: "How ____ Is Your Love"
19. George Benson: "The _____ Love of All"
20. Melissa Manchester: "Looking _____ the Eyes of Love"
21. Pops Fernandez: "Just ___ You Love Me"

Answers:

1.) Long
2.) Stop
3.) You
4.) Buy
5.) Time
6.) Tonight
7.) Help
8.) Best
9.) PS.
10.) Keep
11.) Get
12.) Got
13.) Tomorrow
14.) Think
15.) Feeling
16.) Called
17.) Russia
18.) Deep
19.) Greatest
20.) Through
21.) Say

Ratings:

superbrain!
11-12

excellent!
9-10

good!
6-8

LISTEN UP!

It's been raining a lot. Not everyone's lucky to have squeaky clean houses after a typhoon. Many people lose their homes and other things because of flash floods, avalanches and other sad events due to heavy rains. Do your part in helping by contributing clothes, toys, books, and food to these people. It's always nice to help out. It gives you a nice fuzzy warm feeling when you make someone happy.

Last Episode: Mystery Duck and Elasti-Worm receive the distress call of their team mates. Before they can jump into action, a mysterious porcupine named Pancho arrives to confront them with a secret from the past...

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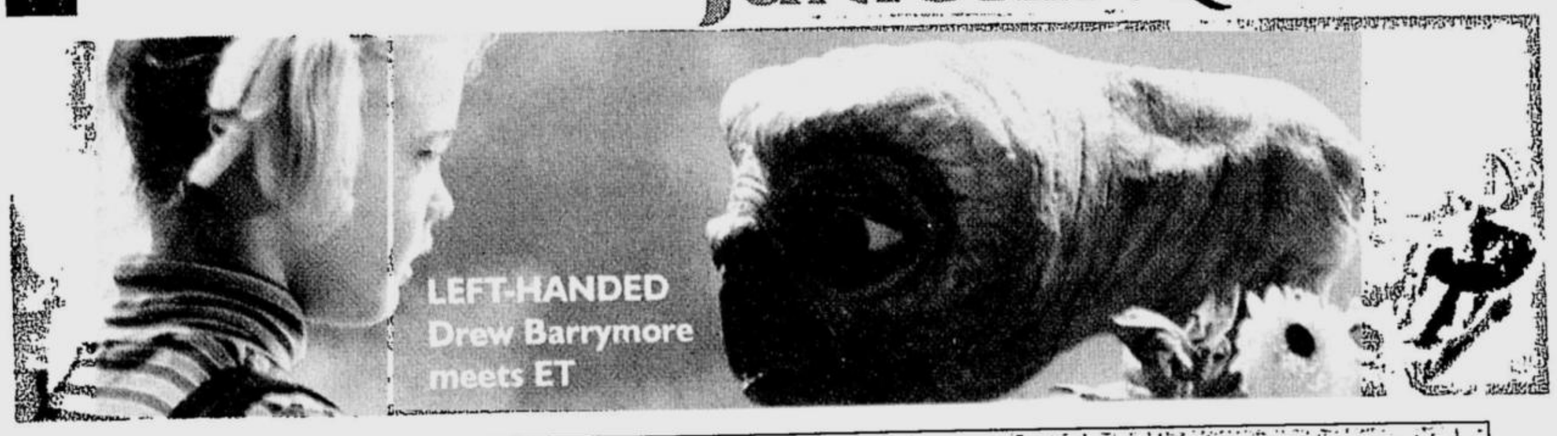
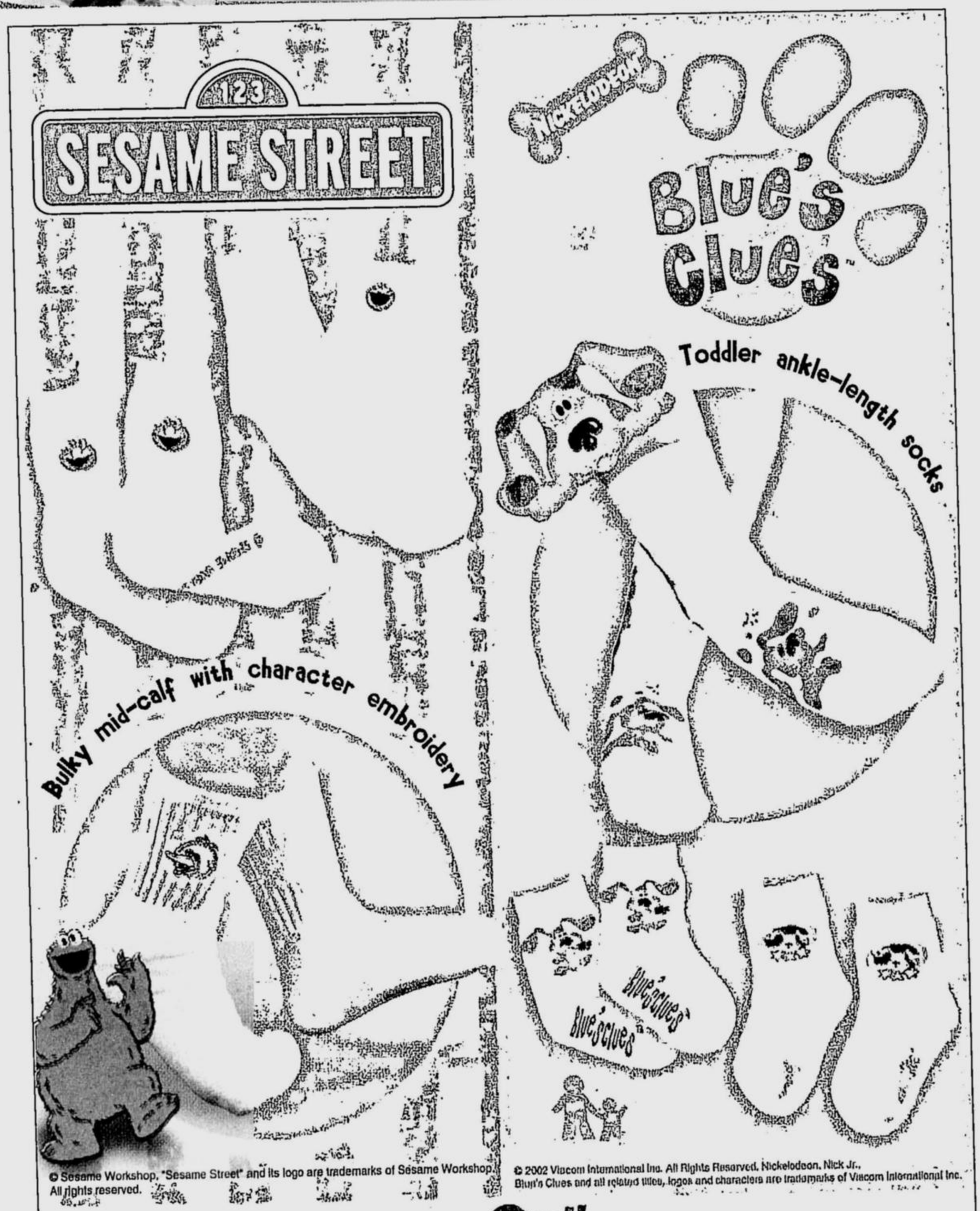
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT





I'm a Lefty... (from page 1)

people. We are also providing you a list of famous left-handed people so that you know that you're in good company.

Fascinating Facts

Most left-handers draw figures facing to the right.

If you are twins, there is a big chance that one of you is left-handed.

If you are left-handed, try playing sports like tennis, baseball, swimming and fencing because there is a big chance you will be good at it.

One in 4 Apollo astronauts was left-handed as well 4 of the 5 original designers of the Macintosh computer.

Half of the Beatles are left-handed—Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr.

Ten percent of men are left-handed and eight percent of women are left-handed.

Left-handed people are 20 percent more likely to sample a forkful of food from the plates of fellow diners than are right-handed people.

And did you know that cats, just like people, are either right-handed or left-handed—that is, they favor either their right or left paws.

Famous People

Pinoys
- Billiards player Antonio Lining
- Mayor Vilma Santos
- Former Pres. Joseph Estrada
- Sen. Ping Lacson
- Bowler Paeng Nepomuceno
- Boxer Gerry Peñalosa
- Boxer Manny Pacquiao

Actors
- Brad Pitt
- Mel Gibson
- Hugh Jackman
- Keanu Reeves

Actresses
- Julia Roberts
- Nicole Kidman
- Angelina Jolie
- Drew Barrymore

Musical geniuses
- Ludwig van Beethoven
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Writers
- Hans Christian Andersen
- Lewis Carroll
- Mark Twain
- Mae Astrid Tobias (hehe)